

## OPTOMETRIST

**Licensing Authority** Karla Hoover  
Board of Optometry Examiners  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas State Office Bldg 5th Fl  
321 E 12th St  
Des Moines IA 50319-0075  
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**Legal Authority** Code of Iowa, Chapter 154; Iowa Administrative Code 645, Chapter 179-183

**Job Description** Optometrists measure the visual power of the human eye; prescribe and adapt lenses, prisms and contact lenses; and, employ visual training or ocular exercise to aid, relieve or correct people's vision. They treat diseases of the eye by using topical pharmaceutical agents or oral medicines and by removing superficial foreign bodies from the human eye and adnexa.

**Education & Experience Required** To practice optometry in Iowa, a person must have a high school diploma and graduate from a school or college of optometry accredited by a regional or professional accreditation organization that is recognized or approved by the council on postsecondary accreditation of the U.S. Department of Education and approved by the Iowa Board of Optometry Examiners.

Additionally, applicants must complete 44 hours of education with an emphasis on treatment and management of glaucoma and the use of oral pharmaceutical agents for treatment and management of ocular disease from an accredited regional or professional institution.

Applicants who hold licenses in other states must apply for an Iowa license before practicing their profession in Iowa.

**Continuing Education** Fifty hours of continuing education are required biennially for license renewal.

**Examination** An applicant must arrange to take and pass all parts of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examination prior to applying for licensure.

**Fees** Application: \$250 by exam  
\$275 by endorsement  
Duration: Two years (expires June 30 of every even-numbered year)  
Renewal: \$120  
Exam: Arranged by applicant

**SOC Code, Title & Avg. Hourly Wage** 29-1041 – Optometrists (\$43.88)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of December 31, 2001: 623

**For Additional Information** Iowa Department of Public Health Web site:  
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>

American Optometric Association  
Educational Services  
243 N Lindbergh Blvd  
St Louis MO 63141-7881

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
6110 Executive Blvd Ste 690  
Rockville MD 20852

Iowa Optometric Association  
1454 30th St Ste 204  
West Des Moines IA 50266