

Membership Classes and Categories

In accordance with the Bylaws and approved by Board Resolution, the classes and categories of membership are as follows:

1. General Member

A person is eligible to be a General Member if he or she is registered by the College to practice optometry in the province of British Columbia, and is interested in supporting the purposes and activities of the Association.

Categories of General Member include:

- a) **New Member:** A new member is a person who is registered by the College to practice optometry in British Columbia and is commencing to practice optometry in British Columbia for the first time.
- b) **New Graduate Member:** A new graduate member is a person who is registered by the College to practice optometry in British Columbia, who graduated in the same year of the membership year, and is commencing to practice optometry for the first time.
- c) **Part-Time and Semi-Retired Member:** A part-time or semi-retired member is a person who is registered by the College to practice optometry in British Columbia and who is working 800 hours or less (approximately 2 days per week) during the period January 1 to December 31 of any given year. An application for part-time or semi-retired membership needs to be completed, signed, and returned to the Association office.
- d) **Temporary Member:** A temporary member is a person who is registered by the College to practice in British Columbia and who practices optometry in British Columbia for 30 consecutive days or less in a calendar year.
- e) **Disabled or Partially Disabled Member:** A Disabled or Partially Disabled Member is a person who is registered by the College to practice in British Columbia and who is unable to practice optometry by reason of his/her disability. A partially disabled member is a member who is unable to practice optometry by reason of his/her disability on a full-time basis.

Notes:

New Members: Fees are pro-rated on a monthly basis.

New Graduate Members: A newly graduated optometrist who is registered by the College to practice and who is enrolled in a post-graduate residency program and practicing in British Columbia is considered a New Graduate Year 1 for the purposes of membership in BCAA.

Newly graduated members fees are waived with their registration to the BCAA.

New Graduates will also receive a 50% discount on the BC Doctors of Optometry Annual Conference and OPTOFAIR registration fees in their first year of registration and no later than their first, full year of practice.

Leaves of Absence: A leave of absence is defined as the cessation of the practice of optometry in British Columbia for six consecutive months or less by a member in good standing. A leave of absence may include maternity leave, parental leave, academic study or travel. Leaves of absence are to be requested in advance.

Resignation Due to Relocation: A resignation due to relocation is defined as the cessation of the practice of optometry in British Columbia by a member in good standing who is moving to another province and who intends to join the provincial association in that jurisdiction. The member must apply in writing in advance of their proposed resignation date. Any refund on the component of the annual fees paid to BCAA will be paid out on a quarterly basis and is subject to a \$50.00 administration fee. There will be no refund on the annual fees paid for CAO as these are forwarded on your behalf to CAO.

2. Associate Member

A person may be eligible to be an Associate Member if he or she is not eligible for General Membership; in the determination of the Board, is employed directly or indirectly in the profession of optometry and has an interest in the administration of the profession of optometry in British Columbia; and is interested in supporting the purposes and activities of the Association.

3. Retired Member

A person may be eligible to be a Retired Member if he or she is not eligible for General Membership; was either previously a General Member or a retired member of the Association as it existed under the Optometrist Act of British Columbia, prior to the repeal of that Act; and is now fully retired from the profession and practice of optometry.

4. Honourary Member

A person who is not registered by the College and is not a practising optometrist, and who has rendered significant and distinguished service to the practice and profession of optometry may be eligible to be appointed by Board Resolution as an Honourary Member for such term, up to the life of the recipient, as determined by the board.

5. Student Member

A person may be eligible to be a Student Member if he or she is not eligible for General Membership; is enrolled as a student in an optometry program recognized by the Association from time to time; is interested in supporting the purposes and activities of the Association.