

Steps to

Practicing in BC

01. Graduate from accredited optometry program



Obtain Doctor of Optometry degree (OD) from a recognized school



02.



Write the Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) exam

- Written and clinical (OSCE) components
- The OEBC is now mandatory and replaces the US NBEO exam
- If you were registered for the NBEO before March 12, 2025, BC may still accept results from these exams on a case-by-case basis
- Please contact the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC if you have any questions on requirements

03.



Apply for registration with the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC (CHCPBC)

- Application form and fee
- Official transcript
- OEBC exam pass letter/Waiver Form
- Letters of good standing (if applicable)
- Criminal record check
- Notarized copy of government issues ID
- Passport photo taken within 6 months
- Proof of Canadian citizenship, permanent residency or work permit
- Professional liability insurance coverage (available as part of BCDO membership)



For international graduates or graduates from a non-accredited school:

- May need credential assessment through the Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FORAC)
- Additional exams or bridging programs may be needed before being eligible to sit the OEBC exam

04.



Write the jurisprudence exam

- Open book test on BC's optometry regulations, bylaws and profession **NOT REQUIRED AS OF APRIL 1, 2026, UNTIL A NEW HARMONIZED VERSION IS AVAILABLE.**
- Jurisprudence exam
 - Administered by the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC
 - Completed online at any time.
- Final requirement before licensure

Pay licensing fees and receive your license

- Pay applicable registration/licensing fees to the College.

Also important:

- Enroll in the Medical Services Plan (MSP) to bill insured services
- Join BCDO!

NOW YOU ARE LEGALLY LICENSED TO PRACTICE OPTOMETRY IN BC!