

## **OPTICIAN CONTINUING EDUCATION REGULATIONS**

**Sec. 20-146(c)-1. Definitions.** For the purposes of sections 20-146(c)-1 to 20-146(c)-7, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health.
- (2) "Licensee" means an optician licensed pursuant to Section 20-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (3) "License renewal due date" means the last day of the month of the licensee's date of birth.
- (4) "Registration period" means the one-year period during which a license has been renewed in accordance with Section 19a-88 of the Connecticut General Statutes and is current and valid.
- (5) "Provider" means the individual educator or sponsor conducting a continuing education activity.
- (6) "Participant" means a licensee who successfully completes a continuing education activity.
- (7) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing education activity.
- (8) "Certificate of completion" means a document issued to a participant by a provider which certifies that the participant has successfully completed a continuing education activity.
- (9) "Active Practice" means the treatment in Connecticut of one or more patients by a licensee during any given registration period.

**Sec. 20-146(c)-2. Number of credits required.**

- (a) Each licensee applying for license renewal shall have completed a minimum of seven contact hours of qualifying continuing education for opticians during the preceding registration period.
- (b) Continuing education contact hours completed in one registration period shall not carry over to a subsequent registration period.
- (c) Successful completion of an entire continuing education activity shall be required for award of any continuing education contact hours.

**Sec. 20-146(c)-3 Basic requirements for qualifying continuing education activities.**

- (a) Continuing education activities shall meet the following requirements:
  - (1) Providers are approved by the American Board of Opticianry, the National Contact Lens Examiners or other nationally recognized organization approved by the department after consultation with the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians.
  - (2) the activity involves face-to-face didactic instruction.
  - (3) the provider implements a mechanism to monitor and document physical attendance at such instruction.
  - (4) the provider retains written records for a period of three years from the participant's actual successful completion of the activity, including but not limited to: content description; instructor; date of activity; location of activity; list of participants; participant's evaluation of instruction presented; and number of contact hours.
  - (5) the provider issues a certificate of completion after the participant's successful completion of the activity. Such certificate shall include the participant's name, provider's name, title or subject area of the activity, date and location of attendance, and number of contact hours completed.
- (b) Activities which do not qualify for award of contact hours include: professional organizational business meetings; speeches delivered at luncheons or banquets; reading of books, articles, or professional journals; home study courses, correspondence courses, and other mechanisms of self instruction; and audio-visual materials, except when the latter is used as a component of a qualifying continuing education activity identified in subsection (a) of this section.

**Sec. 20-146(c)-4 Content areas for qualifying continuing education activities.**

- (a) Subject matter for qualifying continued education activities shall reflect the scope of practice authorized under Chapter 381 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Only those continued education activities which provide significant theoretical or practical content directly related to the clinical practice of opticianry shall qualify to meet the requirements of sections 20-146(c)-2 to 20-146(c)-4, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

- (b) Continued education activity that provides content related to organization and design of optical stores, practice development, business management or marketing, investments or financial management, personnel management, personal health or development, and similar topics of professional concern, shall be limited to not more than one contact hour in contact lens nor one contact hour in eyewear in any one registration period.

**Sec. 20-146(c)-5 Record retention by licensees.**

- (a) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from the provider of continuing education activities successfully completed. Each licensee shall maintain, for continuing education activities specified in subsection 20-146(c)-4(a) of these regulations, written documentation of completion. Certificates of completion shall be retained by the licensee for a minimum of three years following the license renewal due date for which the activity satisfies license renewal requirements.
- (b) The department may inspect such licensee records as it deems necessary. Certificates of completion shall be submitted by the licensee to the department only upon the department's request. Such records shall be submitted to the department by the licensee within 45 days of the department's request.
- (c) A licensee who fails to comply with the continuing education requirements of these regulations may be subject to disciplinary action, pursuant to section 20-154 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**Sec. 20-146(c)-6. Exemptions from and waiver of the continuing education requirements.**

- (a) A licensee applying for license renewal for the first time in Connecticut shall be exempt from continuing education requirements.
- (b) A licensee who is not engaged in active practice during a given continuing education registration period shall be exempt from continuing education requirements on submission, prior to the expiration of the continuing education registration period, of a notarized application on a form provided by the department. The application shall contain the statement that the licensee shall not engage in active practice until the licensee has shown proof of completion of requirements specified in sections 20-146(c)-2 to 20-146(c)-4, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

**Sec. 20-146(c)-7. Requirements for return to active practice following exemption from continuing education requirements.**

- (a) A licensee who has been exempt, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 20-146(c)-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, shall submit to the department evidence of successful completion of seven contact hours of continuing education within six months after returning to active practice.

Statement of Purpose: To establish mandatory continuing education requirements for persons licensed as opticians.