

**ADOPTED REGULATION OF
THE BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS
LCB File No. R025-97**

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §1, NRS 637.070 and 637.122; §§2 and 3, NRS 637.070 and 637.135; §4,
NRS 637.070; §5, NRS 637.070 and 637.123.

Section 1. NAC 637.175 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637.175 1. To obtain a license to fit contact lenses, a licensed dispensing optician must file with the board an application accompanied by payment of a fee of [~~\$100~~] *\$200* for the initial issuance.

2. An application for a training license to fit contact lenses must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.

3. Two years after an initial training license is issued, the board may, upon the receipt of a new application and the payment of a fee of \$50, issue a new training license to the applicant.

Sec. 2. NAC 637.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637.200 1. Subjects for continuing education in ophthalmic dispensing include:

- (a) Mechanical and geometric optics;
- (b) The measurement, fitting and adaption of eyeglasses, contact lenses and optical prosthetics;
- (c) Optical materials, their design and uses as visual aids;

- (d) The nature and properties of light and its refraction by lenses; [and]
 - (e) The anatomy and physiology of the eye and its appendages [.] ;
 - (f) *The principles of management relating to ophthalmic dispensing;*
 - (g) *The principles of ophthalmic dispensing and the wearing of contact lenses related to ophthalmology and optometry; and*
 - (h) *Refractometry.*
2. [To be approved, the continuing education courses] *The board shall approve each course of continuing education. Each course* must be sponsored by a school for opticians or a state, regional or national association of opticians. [Any other educational programs must have prior approval of the board in order for the licensee to receive continuing education credits.]
 3. *A licensee is not entitled to receive credit for a course of continuing education unless the course is approved by the board.*
 4. A licensee who attends the same educational lecture more than once [in the same calendar year] *every 3 years* is entitled to count only his original attendance as credit toward his hours of continuing education.
 5. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a dispensing optician shall complete at least 12 hours of continuing education each year. The dispensing optician is entitled to receive credit for not more than 6 additional hours of continuing education completed during a year and may apply those hours to the requirement for continuing education for the following year.*
 6. *A dispensing optician who is licensed to fit contact lenses shall complete at least 14 hours of continuing education each year. The dispensing optician is entitled to receive credit for not more than 7 additional hours of continuing education completed during a year and may apply those hours to the requirement for continuing education for the following year.*

Sec. 3. NAC 637.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637.210 1. The continuing education required for *the* renewal of a certificate to fit contact lenses must [be an additional course of] *include* at least [2 hours , of which half of the total credit hours must be] *7 hours of instruction* on the subject of fitting contact lenses.

2. A licensed dispensing optician who is certified to fit contact lenses and who fails to meet continuing education requirements for recertification as a contact lens dispenser does not, for that reason alone, lose his license as a dispensing optician.

Sec. 4. NAC 637.245 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637.245 A dispensing optician shall not fit contact lenses unless he has access to equipment for fitting contact lenses on the premises, including, without limitation:

1. A slit lamp;
2. A radioscope;
3. A keratometer;
4. A contact lens loop;
5. A thickness and diameter gauge;
6. A fluoresce scope; and
7. Trial [**contact**] lenses.

Sec. 5. NAC 637.295 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637.295 1. A licensed apprentice dispensing optician must successfully complete 12 hours of continuing education for each [12-month period] *year* of his apprenticeship as a prerequisite to the renewal of his license. The continuing education must be completed *not later than December 31 of each year* and proof of that completion must be submitted to the board [**before December 31 of each 12-month period.**

2. **Successful]** *not later than January 31 following the year in which the continuing education was completed.*

2. *The successful* completion of the National Academy of Opticians' correspondence course during the period of apprenticeship is equivalent to 48 hours of continuing education and satisfies the requirement for continuing education for 4 years.

3. A course, seminar or workshop for continuing education must be approved by the board's committee on continuing education at least 30 days before it is offered, unless the committee waives this requirement.

4. The board may waive or alter the requirement that 12 hours of continuing education be completed annually if the intent of that requirement would not be carried out by its strict application.