

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 430-2 REGISTRATION, RULES 430-2-.01
APPLICATIONS, 430-2-.04 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS;
APPROVAL OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS, 430-2-.05 REQUIREMENTS FOR
INACTIVE LICENSE STATUS. AMENDED, 430-2-.07 RENEWAL OF
LICENSES
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RULES 430-2-.01 APPLICATIONS, 430-2-.04 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS; APPROVAL OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS, 430-2-.05 REQUIREMENTS FOR INACTIVE LICENSE STATUS. AMENDED, 430-2-.07 RENEWAL OF LICENSES

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Examiners in Optometry (hereinafter “Board”) proposes an amendment to Rules 430-2-.01 Applications, 430-2-.04 Continuing Education Requirements; Approval of Education Programs, 430-2-.05 Requirements for Inactive License Status, 430-2-.07 Renewal of Licenses (herein after “proposed rule”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at [Georgia State Board of Examiners in Optometry | Georgia Secretary of State \(ga.gov\)](https://www.ga.gov/secretaryofstate/professionallicensingboards). Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (844) 753-7825.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment at a public hearing to be held at **10:15 a.m., November 13, 2024** in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The hearing will be conducted in person and via teleconference. Please see Board’s website for information on how to join the meeting via teleconference.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **November 06, 2024**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Todd Zandrowicz, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Examiners in Optometry, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

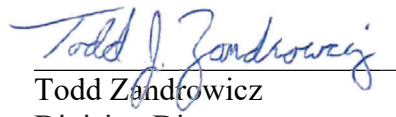
The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on May 03, 2023. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule amendment does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-19, 43-1-22, 43-1-25, 43-30-1, 43-30-5, 43-30-7, 43-30-8, 43-30-9 and 43-30-18. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-19, 43-1-22, 43-1-25, 43-30-1, 43-30-5, 43-30-7, 43-30-8, 43-30-9 and 43-30-18 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Optometry.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Examiners in Optometry has the authority to adopt proposed Rules 430-2-.01 Applications, 430-2-.04 Continuing Education Requirements; Approval of Education Programs, 430-2-.05 Requirements for Inactive License Status. Amended, 430-2-.07 Renewal of Licenses pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-19, 43-1-22, 43-1-25, 43-30-1, 43-30-5, 43-30-7, 43-30-8, 43-30-9 and 43-30-18.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 4th day of September, 2024.



Todd Zandrowicz
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: 09/04/2024

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 430-2 REGISTRATION, RULES 430-2-.01
APPLICATIONS, 430-2-.04 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS;
APPROVAL OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS, 430-2-.05 REQUIREMENTS FOR
INACTIVE LICENSE STATUS. AMENDED, 430-2-.07 RENEWAL OF LICENSES**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed adoption is to amend the rule to reflect statutory updates.

Rule 430-2-.01. Applications

- (1) Candidates for licensure in Georgia will be required to pass Parts I, II and III of the National Board examinations; ~~and the~~ Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) examination, and the Georgia State Jurisprudence examination administered by the Georgia State Board of Examiners in Optometry or the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. ~~In addition, after July, 1994, all candidates must have completed all requirements for therapeutic certification before making application to take the Jurisprudence examination.~~
- (2) All candidates' applications ~~must be received 45 days prior to the examination date and~~ must include the following documents:
 - a. ~~Official transcripts of all optometric college credits; degree(s).~~
 - b. ~~Certified scores of IAB NBEO exam and "Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease" (TMOD) examination.~~
 - c. ~~certified scores of Parts I, II, and III of the National Boards. Verification of licensure held in any other state or jurisdiction, currently active or not, if applicable.~~
 - d. Malpractice Insurance (obtained within thirty days of license issuance).
 - e. Current CPR Certification (obtained within thirty days of license issuance).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-30-1, 43-30-5, 43-30-7, 43-30-8 and 43-30-9.

Rule 430-2-.04 Continuing Education Requirements; Approval of Education Programs

- (1) The Board has pre-approved continuing education (post-graduate) courses from schools and colleges of optometry accredited by the American Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association, and all courses taught or approved by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE); a maximum of ten (10) hours per biennium in ophthalmologic related courses taught by the Medical College of Georgia, Emory University, Mercer University and Morehouse College; any

~~courses offered by the American Optometric Association or its regional or state affiliates; the Society of Professional Optometrists of Georgia; the SECO International, LLC, the Council on Optometric Practice Education (C.O.P.E.) and any courses approved by C.O.P.E.; American Board of Optometry and American Academy of Optometry. All preapproved continuing education providers must give notification of their courses on a timely basis to all Georgia Optometrists. Any other individual or organization desiring Board approval of an educational program sponsored by the individual or organization, or particular segments of such a program shall submit a request for approval to the State Board of Optometry, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217, not later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of such program. Each administrator of continuing education credit that gives credit to more than five doctors at any single event shall register all attendees and credits with the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry OE Tracker Program. The Board will act on such request within thirty (30) days after receipt of the request for approval. Any request for Board approval of an educational program must include the following information:~~

(a) The Board preapproves all hours from the following institutions/organizations:

1. Courses offered by the American Optometric Association (AOA) or its regional, state, or local society affiliates.
2. Courses offered by the Society of Professional Optometrists of Georgia; SECO International, LLC; the American Board of Optometry and the American Academy of Optometry.
3. All preapproved continuing education courses should be made available to all Georgia Optometrists.

(b) Any other individual or organization desiring Board approval of an educational program sponsored by the individual or organization, or segments of such a program shall submit the Continuing Education Program Application and Approval Form to the Georgia Board of Optometry not later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of such program or it may not be considered for approval. The form is available on the Board website.

1. Each administrator of continuing education that gives credit to five (5) or more doctors, at any single event, shall register all attendees and credits with the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry - OE Tracker Program.
2. Any request for Board approval of an educational program must include the following information:

(a i) The identity of the sponsor, including:

- 1 (I) The name and address of the sponsoring individual(s) or organization and a description of any organizational form (e.g., unincorporated association, non-profit corporation, etc.) and the date of organization;
- 2 (II) The name and address of the principal officers of the sponsor.

~~(b) A description of the program, including:~~

1. (ii) With respect to each course for which approval is sought, a description of the program including:
 - (i) (I) ~~¶~~ The name and address of the instructor;
 - (ii) (II) ~~¶~~ The title of the course;
 - (iii) (III) ~~¶~~ A brief biographical sketch of the instructor including a detailed description (curriculum vitae) of his/her academic qualifications and a listing of prior publications including ~~published speeches~~ prior lectures, which relates to the subject matter of the course;
 - (iv) (IV) ~~¶~~ An outline of the proposed content;
 - (v) (V) ~~¶~~ The number of hours for which approval is requested, including a specification of those hours relating to practice management.
 2. (VI) The scheduled time and place of the course;
 3. (VII) A description of the method by which course attendance is to be monitored;
 4. (VIII) The amount of any registration fee, tuition or other charge for attendance, ~~including a statement of any difference in such charges, which depend on membership in the sponsoring organization;~~
 5. (IX) A sample of any advertisement or announcement intended to ~~be employed concerning~~ promote the program.
- (e iii) Such additional information as the Board may request in the course of its deliberations concerning the application for approval.

- (2) The following course content will not satisfy the continuing education requirement:
- ~~(a) Courses dealing with social and health trends;~~
 - (ba) Any course unrelated to or not designed to enhance the professional skill of the practitioner; unless approved by the Board.
 - (eb) Courses conducted by any individual who is the owner of or is directly connected with any optical wholesale concern unless approved by the Board.
 - (ec) CPR.
- (3) A ~~d~~Doctor of ~~o~~Optometry is expected to ascertain in advance that the courses, which he/she attends, have received prior Board approval, and do not fall within the exceptions of sub-part (2) above.
- (4) Board approval of any educational program under this section relates to the program as proposed to the Board. In the event the actual program does not substantively correspond to the proposed program approved by the Board, the ~~b~~Board will not give credit for that program under ~~Code Section~~ O.C.G.A. § 43-30-8. The Board will not consider for approval the program as modified.
- (5) Minimum hours required. The Board requires a minimum of 36 hours of attendance at Board-approved continuing education programs.
- (a) Those licensed in the first year of the biennium will be required to obtain eighteen (18) hours of continuing education. This requirement applies regardless of when you establish practice in Georgia. Licensees in this category shall obtain one (1) hour of CE in Georgia laws and rules. This one (1) hour shall be included in the total eighteen (18) hours required for renewal.
 - (b) Those licensed in the second year of the biennium are not required to obtain continuing education in that biennium.
 - (c) All licensees are required to obtain thirty-six (36) hours per biennium beginning in the third calendar year of licensure. Licensees shall obtain one (1) hour of Board-approved continuing education in Georgia laws and rules. This one (1) hour shall be included in the total thirty-six (36) hours required for renewal.
 - (d) All CE hours on Georgia laws and rules must be prior approved by the Board. A maximum of one (1) hour per biennium will be allowed as continuing education credit in this area. Georgia licensed optometrists not practicing in Georgia are exempt from acquiring the one (1) hour of CE in Georgia laws and rules.

- (e) A maximum of eight (8) hours per biennium will be allowed as continuing education credit for grand rounds. One (1) hour credit will be allowed for every two (2) hours spent in grand rounds.
 - (f) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education credit will be allowed per biennium for any coursework that is offered by correspondence or electronic medium, which coursework is approved or sponsored by any provider identified in paragraph (1) of this rule.
 - (g) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education credit will be allowed per biennium for practice management course work, ~~as long as~~ if it is patient care related.
 - (h) Effective January 1, 2006, of the thirty-six (36) required hours, a minimum of 18 hours of continuing education per biennium is required under the categories of pharmacology and ocular disease. ~~pathology courses as related to ophthalmologic conditions.~~
- (6) Reporting and Auditing. The method of reporting and auditing continuing education shall be:
- (a) At the time of license renewal, each Optometrist shall certify to the Board that he/she has completed the continuing education required for license renewal. The preferred method of tracking continuing education is through the ARBO OE-Tracker system and the licensee is encouraged to verify that all course work has been posted to OE-Tracker. If the licensee chooses to not participate in the OE-Tracker system and if all of his/her education credits are not posted therein, the licensee may be required to submit paper records ~~email or FAX~~ directly to the board in order to demonstrate compliance with the required continuing education hours.
 - (b) The Board shall audit the continuing education of a percentage of licensees for compliance with all rules and regulations. Such audits will ~~be completed after the license renewal date and will~~ cover course work ~~completed~~ obtained during the just-completed biennium.
 - (c) Each licensed Optometrist shall maintain records of attendance and supporting documents for continuing education for a period of three (3) years from the date of attendance.
 - (d) Deferral of the requirement for education program hours may be considered by the Board. Requests for deferral must be submitted to the Board ~~in writing and~~ by submission of a Petition for a Rule Waiver or Variance and should include complete supporting documentation of the reasons for the request. ~~Deferral will be considered for the following reasons:~~

1. ~~certified illness; and~~

2. ~~hardship.~~

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-30-5 and 43-30-8.

Rule 430-2-.05. Requirements for Inactive License Status. Amended

Georgia licensed optometrists may make a request in writing to the Board ~~that to place~~ their active license ~~to practice optometry in Georgia be placed in~~ into inactive status under the following conditions:

- (a) The ~~request~~ application and fee must be received prior to the ~~license expiration date~~ end of the late renewal period to be considered. ~~There is no fee required to request inactive status.~~ Please refer to the fee schedule.
- (b) ~~In the event that a Doctor of Optometry who holds a valid license to practice Optometry in the State of Georgia notifies the Board that he chooses to retire from active practice of the profession, his license shall be considered to be inactive;~~ Volunteer Licenses are not eligible for Inactive Status.
- (c) Doctors holding an inactive license shall not engage in the practice of Optometry and shall not hold themselves out to the public as being available to provide optometric services;
- (d) A Doctor of Optometry holding an inactive license shall not be required to obtain the necessary continuing education credits and no renewal fee shall be assessed.
- (e) In order to return to the practice of optometry, a reinstatement application for licensure must be submitted to the Board. ~~Refer to Board rule 430-2-.09 in~~ accordance with Board rule 430-2-.09.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-22, 43-30-5 and 43-30-8.

Rule 430-2-.07 Renewal of Licenses

- (1) Each person holding a valid license to practice optometry shall renew said license with the Division Director by completing and filing the online renewal form. A paper renewal application form shall be furnished by the Board upon request. Said licenses expire on December 31st of every odd-numbered years and shall be renewed biennially upon payment of the biennial renewal fees and providing proof; if selected for an audit; of the completion of the required continuing education hours. The paper renewal form shall be considered timely filed with the Board upon being postmarked. All paper

renewal forms not postmarked by December 31st of the odd numbered years shall be considered late.

- (2) Each person holding a valid license to practice optometry who does not renew said license by December 31st of the odd-numbered years shall be afforded a late renewal for a period of thirty-one (30 31) days after the deadline date. Late renewals shall be processed after filing the renewal form, payment of the renewal fee and late renewal penalty fee and providing proof, if selected for an audit, of the required continuing education hours. The late renewal form shall be considered filed timely with the Board upon being postmarked on or before January 31st, every even numbered year. ~~All late renewal forms not postmarked by January 30 following the December 31 deadline shall not be considered timely filed with the Board.~~
- (3) Any service member as defined in O.C.G.A. § 43-1-31 whose license to practice optometry expired while serving on active duty outside the state shall be permitted to practice optometry in accordance with the expired license and shall not be charged with a violation relating to such practice on an expired license for a period of six (6) months from the date of his or her discharge from active duty or reassignment to a location within the state. Any such service member shall be entitled to renew such expired license without penalty within six (6) months after the date of her or her discharge from active duty or reassignment to a location with the state. The service member must present to the board a copy of the official military orders, or a written verification signed by the service member's commanding officer to waive any charges.
- (4) After the late renewal time period, all non-renewed licenses will be revoked by operation of law for non-renewal; and will require reinstatement at the discretion of the Board.
- (5) Continuing Education hours are a requirement for the renewal of the Optometrist license or Volunteer Licensure every two years. Licensed Optometrists are required to obtain a total of thirty-six (36) CE Hours within the two years of each biennium, prior to the expiration date of December 31st every odd numbered year.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-30-5, 43-30-8 and 43-30-18.

RULES
OF
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
CHAPTER 430-2
REGISTRATION

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Rule 430-2-.01. Applications

- (1) Candidates for licensure in Georgia will be required to pass Parts I, II and III of the National Board examinations, the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) examination, and the Georgia State Jurisprudence examination administered by the Georgia State Board of Examiners in Optometry or the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.
- (2) All applications must include the following documents:
 - a. Official transcripts of all optometric degree(s).
 - b. Certified scores of NBEO exam and “Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease” (TMOD) examination.
 - c. Verification of licensure held in any other state or jurisdiction, currently active or not, if applicable.
 - d. Malpractice Insurance (obtained within thirty days of license issuance).
 - e. Current CPR Certification (obtained within thirty days of license issuance).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §43-30-1, 43-30-5, 43-30-7, 43-30-8 and 43-30-9.

Rule 430-2-.04 Continuing Education Requirements; Approval of Education Programs

- (1) The Board has pre-approved continuing education (post-graduate) courses from schools and colleges of optometry accredited by the American Council on Optometric

Education of the American Optometric Association, and all courses are taught or approved by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE).

- (a) The Board preapproves all hours from the following institutions/organizations:
 1. Courses offered by the American Optometric Association (AOA) or its regional, state, or local society affiliates.
 2. Courses offered by the Society of Professional Optometrists of Georgia; SECO International, LLC; the American Board of Optometry and the American Academy of Optometry.
 3. All preapproved continuing education courses should be made available to all Georgia Optometrists.

- (b) Any other individual or organization desiring Board approval of an educational program sponsored by the individual or organization, or segments of such a program shall submit the Continuing Education Program Application and Approval Form to the Georgia Board of Optometry not later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of such program or it may not be considered for approval. The form is available on the Board website.
 1. Each administrator of continuing education that gives credit to five (5) or more doctors, at any single event, shall register all attendees and credits with the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry – OE Tracker Program.
 2. Any request for Board approval of an educational program must include the following information:
 - (i) The identity of the sponsor, including:
 - (I) The name and address of the sponsoring individual(s) or organization and a description of any organizational form (e.g., unincorporated association, non-profit corporation, etc.) and the date of organization.
 - (II) The name and address of the principal officers of the sponsor.
 - (ii) With respect to each course for which approval is sought, a description of the program including:
 - (I) The name and address of the instructor.
 - (II) The title of the course.

- (III) A brief biographical sketch of the instructor including a detailed description (curriculum vitae) of his/her academic qualifications and a listing of prior publications including prior lectures, which relates to the subject matter of the course.
 - (IV) An outline of the proposed content.
 - (V) The number of hours for which approval is requested, including a specification of those hours relating to practice management.
 - (VI) The scheduled time and place of the course.
 - (VII) A description of the method by which course attendance is to be monitored.
 - (VIII) The amount of any registration fee, tuition or other charge for attendance.
 - (IX) A sample of any advertisement or announcement intended to promote the program.
- (iii) Such additional information as the Board may request in the course of its deliberations concerning the application for approval.
- (2) The following course content will not satisfy the continuing education requirement:
- (a) Any course unrelated to or not designed to enhance the professional skill of the practitioner unless approved by the Board.
 - (b) Courses conducted by any individual who is the owner of or is directly connected with any optical wholesale concern unless approved by the Board.
 - (c) CPR.
- (3) A Doctor of Optometry is expected to ascertain in advance that the courses, which he/she attends, have received prior Board approval, and do not fall within the exceptions of sub-part (2) above.
- (4) Board approval of any educational program under this section relates to the program as proposed to the Board. In the event the actual program does not substantively correspond to the proposed program approved by the Board, the board will not give

credit for that program under O.C.G.A. § 43-30-8. The Board will not consider for approval the program as modified.

- (5) Minimum hours required. The Board requires a minimum of 36 hours of attendance at Board-approved continuing education programs.
 - (a) Those licensed in the first year of the biennium will be required to obtain eighteen (18) hours of continuing education. This requirement applies regardless of when you establish practice in Georgia. Licensees in this category shall obtain one (1) hour of CE in Georgia laws and rules. This one (1) hour shall be included in the total eighteen (18) hours required for renewal.
 - (b) Those licensed in the second year of the biennium are not required to obtain continuing education in that biennium.
 - (c) All licensees are required to obtain thirty-six (36) hours per biennium beginning in the third calendar year of licensure. Licensees shall obtain one (1) hour of Board-approved continuing education in Georgia laws and rules. This one (1) hour shall be included in the total thirty-six (36) hours required for renewal.
 - (d) All CE hours on Georgia laws and rules must be prior approved by the Board. A maximum of one (1) hour per biennium will be allowed as continuing education credit in this area. Georgia licensed optometrists not practicing in Georgia are exempt from acquiring the one (1) hour of CE in Georgia laws and rules.
 - (e) A maximum of eight (8) hours per biennium will be allowed as continuing education credit for grand rounds. One (1) hour credit will be allowed for every two (2) hours spent in grand rounds.
 - (f) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education credit will be allowed per biennium for any coursework that is offered by correspondence or electronic medium, which coursework is approved or sponsored by any provider identified in paragraph (1) of this rule.
 - (g) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education credit will be allowed per biennium for practice management course work, if it is patient care related.
 - (h) Effective January 1, 2006, of the thirty-six (36) required hours, a minimum of 18 hours of continuing education per biennium is required under the categories of pharmacology and ocular disease.
- (6) Reporting and Auditing. The method of reporting and auditing continuing education shall be:

- (a) At the time of license renewal, each Optometrist shall certify to the Board that he/she has completed the continuing education required for license renewal. The preferred method of tracking continuing education is through the ARBO OE-Tracker system and the licensee is encouraged to verify that all course work has been posted to OE-Tracker. If the licensee chooses to not participate in the OE-Tracker system and if all of his/her education credits are not posted therein, the licensee may be required to submit paper records directly to the board in order to demonstrate compliance with the required continuing education hours.
- (b) The Board shall audit the continuing education of a percentage of licensees for compliance with all rules and regulations. Such audits will cover course work obtained during the just-completed biennium.
- (c) Each licensed Optometrist shall maintain records of attendance and supporting documents for continuing education for a period of three (3) years from the date of attendance.
- (d) Deferral of the requirement for education program hours may be considered by the Board. Requests for deferral must be submitted to the Board by submission of a Petition for a Rule Waiver or Variance and should include complete supporting documentation of the reasons for the request.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-30-5 and 43-30-8.

Rule 430-2-.05. Requirements for Inactive License Status. Amended

Georgia licensed optometrists may make a request to the Board to place their active license into inactive status under the following conditions:

- (a) The application and fee must be received prior to the end of the late renewal period to be considered. Please refer to the fee schedule.
- (b) Volunteer Licenses are not eligible for Inactive Status.
- (c) Doctors holding an inactive license shall not engage in the practice of Optometry and shall not hold themselves out to the public as being available to provide optometric services.
- (d) A Doctor of Optometry holding an inactive license shall not be required to obtain the necessary continuing education credits and no renewal fee shall be assessed.
- (e) In order to return to the practice of optometry, a reinstatement application for licensure must be submitted to the Board in accordance with Board rule 430-2-.09.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-22, 43-30-5 and 43-30-8.

Rule 430-2-.07 Renewal of Licenses

- (1) Each person holding a valid license to practice optometry shall renew said license with the Division Director by completing and filing the online renewal form. A paper renewal application form shall be furnished by the Board upon request. Said licenses expire on December 31st of every odd-numbered year and shall be renewed biennially upon payment of the biennial renewal fees and providing proof if selected for an audit of the completion of the required continuing education hours. The paper renewal form shall be considered timely filed with the Board upon being postmarked. All paper renewal forms not postmarked by December 31st of the odd numbered years shall be considered late.
- (2) Each person holding a valid license to practice optometry who does not renew said license by December 31st of the odd-numbered years shall be afforded a late renewal for a period of thirty-one (31) days after the deadline date. Late renewals shall be processed after filing the renewal form, payment of the renewal fee and late renewal penalty fee and providing proof, if selected for an audit, of the required continuing education hours. The late renewal form shall be considered filed timely with the Board upon being postmarked on or before January 31st, every even numbered year.
- (3) Any service member as defined in O.C.G.A. § 43-1-31 whose license to practice optometry expired while serving on active duty outside the state shall be permitted to practice optometry in accordance with the expired license and shall not be charged with a violation relating to such practice on an expired license for a period of six (6) months from the date of his or her discharge from active duty or reassignment to a location within the state. Any such service member shall be entitled to renew such expired license without penalty within six (6) months after the date of her or her discharge from active duty or reassignment to a location with the state. The service member must present to the board a copy of the official military orders, or a written verification signed by the service member's commanding officer to waive any charges.
- (4) After the late renewal time period, all non-renewed licenses will be revoked by operation of law for non-renewal and will require reinstatement at the discretion of the Board.
- (5) Continuing Education hours are a requirement for the renewal of the Optometrist license or Volunteer Licensure every two years. Licensed Optometrists are required to obtain a total of thirty-six (36) CE Hours within the two years of each biennium, prior to the expiration date of December 31st every odd numbered year.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-30-5, 43-30-8 and 43-30-18.