

Optometry Board Exams Information Summary

For students in an ACOE-accredited (Accreditation Council on Optometric Education) optometry program.

Please note: the information listed below can be found on the website for each organization; please refer to each website for further information/clarification.

	Canadian Board Exam (OEBC)	US Board Exam (NBEO)
Organization	Optometry Examining Board of Canada (website)	National Board of Examiners in Optometry, Inc. (website)
Exam Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4500 CAD — Written Exam is \$1500, OSCE is \$3000 (effective July 1, 2023) 	https://nbeo.optometry.org/registration/exam_fees
Student Success Rate (first-time writers)	<p>The average pass rates of first-time writers (since 2017):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written – 93% • OSCE – 83% <p>Please see Exam Pass Rates</p>	https://optometriceducation.org/news/national-board-of-examiners-in-optometry-yearly-performance-report/
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Exam — case-based examination assessing candidates’ clinical thinking & decision-making with a heavy emphasis on assessment (31%), diagnosis & planning (28%), patient management (29%) • OSCE — an objective structured clinical evaluation presenting 12 realistic clinical settings, involving a patient, where a candidate constructs the appropriate response; also integrated assessment of technical skills 	<p>https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part I</p> <p>https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part II</p> <p>https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part III</p> <p><i>Please note: Other exams are available. Exams listed above, via links to the NBEO website, are only those comparable to the Canadian Board Exams.</i></p>
Eligibility	<p>Candidates must be in their final academic year.</p> <p>Candidates may challenge the Written exam and/or the OSCE during the Fall or Spring administration. The OSCE and Written exams are typically at least 3-4 weeks apart.</p>	https://nbeo.optometry.org/Policies/Exam_Eligibility_Policy
Delivery – written exams	Written Exam – online via remote proctoring, written anywhere (subject to privacy conditions)	https://nbeo.optometry.org/test_day/pearson_vue
Clinical assessment Locations	OSCE – Montreal, Waterloo, or Hamilton	https://nbeo.optometry.org/test_day/pearson_vue

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Meets School Requirements re. Challenging/Passing Board Exam Components	Yes	Yes
Acceptable outcome measure to meet ACOE Standard I	Yes	Yes
Languages	English and French	English
Registration Opens	Opens in early July for the Fall administration (October-OSCE and November-Written Exam). Opens in early January for the Spring administration (March- Written Exam; April/May - OSCE)	https://nbeo.optometry.org/media/documents/registration/schedules/2023-2024_NBEO_%20Exam%20Schedule.pdf
Online Registration	Yes, through a custom portal	Yes, through a custom portal
Candidate Accommodation	Yes, see Accommodations Policy	https://www.optometry.org/policies/test_accommodations
Request for Policy Exception	Yes, included in the Appeals Policy . A candidate may proactively request an exception to any OEBC policy. If they are not satisfied with the CEO's decision, they may proceed to stage 2 of the Appeals Policy	
Results Issued	Within six weeks of the exam administration	https://www.optometry.org/scoring/release_dates
Maximum attempts	Four attempts per component	https://www.optometry.org/policies/six_time_limit
Rescoring of exam	Yes, see Requesting a Rescore	https://www.optometry.org/policies/score_review
Appeal Policy to deal with any exam matter	Yes, see Appeals Policy	https://www.optometry.org/policies/six_time_limit https://www.optometry.org/policies/score_review
Information regarding Exam Structure	Yes, see the Blueprint which also contains the Competency Model used for scoring elements	https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_I https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_II https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_III

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Access to Patient Interaction Scoring Rubric	Yes, see Appendix B of the Blueprint	Part 3: see “evaluation forms” https://www.optometry.org/exams/part_III
Candidate Guide	Yes, the Candidate Guide (found on the <i>Preparing for the Exam</i> webpage)	https://www.optometry.org/media/documents/part3/2024/CSE_Candidate_Guide_2024.pdf
Candidate Orientation Information	Yes, under Preparing for the Exam	https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_I https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_II https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_III
Study Materials Provided	the OEBC Study Guide includes instructions on how to write OSCE cases for practice (this guide is also found on the <i>Preparing for the Exam</i> webpage)	https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_I https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_II https://nbeo.optometry.org/exams/part_III
Fee-Based Study Materials	No	https://www.optometry.org/exams/part_I
TMOD¹ score separate from the overall score	Not currently, however, it can be provided if required by the regulatory authority.	Yes. Psychometrically designed and provided to all with Part II scores as well as being a stand-alone exam.

¹ Treatment Management of Ocular Disease
September 1, 2023