

## THE COMPREHENSIVE EYE-HEALTH EXAMINATION

Optometrists are required by law to perform certain testing procedures to assure that the eyes are free from disease or other disorder and are functioning visually. These tests include testing for glaucoma, visual acuity, refraction of the eye, muscle function, and any other procedures the optometrist may feel necessary to assess the condition of the eyes.

## PRESCRIPTIONS

The Texas Optometry Act and federal rules require optometrists to furnish a copy of the spectacle prescription upon completion of the comprehensive eye examination (upon payment of the examination fee).

State and federal law require the release of a contact lens prescription once the parameters of the prescription are determined (a follow-up exam may be necessary). Exceptions to the release, including medical reasons and nonpayment of fees, must be explained to the patient.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

It is the goal of the Texas Optometry Board to assure the public and all constituencies that the agency is in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and that the office, programs, activities, and publications are accessible to anyone needing reasonable accommodations.

Information concerning the provisions of the ADA, and rights provided, are available from the Agency ADA Coordinator at **512/305-8500** or **1-RELAYTEXAS (TDD)**

# OPTOMETRY

**The Primary  
Eye Care  
Profession**

**PATIENT  
INFORMATION**



Presented by

**TEXAS OPTOMETRY BOARD**  
**[www.tob.state.tx.us](http://www.tob.state.tx.us)**

## FILING A COMPLAINT

A complaint may be submitted in writing to the Texas Optometry Board - preferably on the Board's Complaint Form. All facts should be included. The Texas Optometry board does not have legal authority to resolve certain complaints such as fee disputes.

To obtain a complaint form, contact the Board at:

**TEXAS OPTOMETRY BOARD**  
**333 GUADALUPE ST STE 2-420**  
**AUSTIN TX 78701-3942**

**Phone: 512/305-8500**  
**FAX: 512/305-8501**  
**[www.tob.state.tx.us](http://www.tob.state.tx.us)** (a complaint form is available on the website)

Or

Call the Health Professions Council Complaint System at **1-800-821-3205** and request a complaint form by leaving your name and address.

## MISSION OF THE PROFESSION OF OPTOMETRY

The mission of the profession of optometry is to fulfill the vision and eye care needs of the public through clinical care, research, and education, all of which enhance the quality of life. Doctors of optometry are independent primary health care providers who examine, diagnose, treat and manage diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures as well as diagnose related systemic conditions.

This brochure contains information for consumers about optometry in the State of Texas. It is made available by the Texas Optometry Board, which regulates the profession. Additional information can be obtained by writing or calling:

**TEXAS OPTOMETRY BOARD**  
**333 GUADALUPE STREET**  
**SUITE 2-420**  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3942**

**Telephone: 512/305-8500**  
**FAX 512/305-8501**  
**www.tob.state.tx.us**

*Esta publicación se puede pedir en español. (This pamphlet is available in the Spanish language upon request.)*

## Frequently Asked Questions About Optometry

### What is the difference between an optometrist, ophthalmologist, and optician?

An **OPTOMETRIST**, licensed by the Texas Optometry Board, is a health care practitioner trained to diagnose signs of ocular, neurological and systemic health problems, treat vision disorders, and prescribe glasses and contact lenses. **Therapeutic optometrists** also treat eye diseases and injuries, prescribe medicine, and perform other procedures such as eye foreign body removal. Therapeutic optometrists who have received an **optometric glaucoma specialist** license may co-manage glaucoma treatment and prescribe some oral medications.

An **OPHTHALMOLOGIST** is a physician trained in eye surgery and eye disease. Ophthalmologists prescribe glasses, contact lenses, and medicine, and perform major eye surgery such as cataract surgery.

An **OPTICIAN** is an eye wear provider trained to select, manufacture and dispense spectacles and sell or deliver contact lenses upon a prescription written by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. An optician is not licensed as an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

### What is the education and training of an optometrist?

The academic credentials of students entering a college of optometry are the same as those entering other health professions. The optometry college curriculum is a minimum of four years. After graduation, the national and Texas Board examinations must be passed to be eligible for licensure.

### How is the competency of the optometrist continually evaluated?

Optometrists, by law, must complete 16 hours of continuing education each year. Six of these hours must be in diagnostic and therapeutic education and techniques.

### What is the Texas Optometry Board?

The Texas Optometry Board serves to protect the public and regulate the profession of optometry. It is comprised of nine members, six of whom are optometrists practicing in the State of Texas, and three public members. All are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The duties of the Board include conducting examinations, issuing and renewing licenses, monitoring professional practice, answering questions and receiving and processing complaints from the public.

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