



ILLINOIS OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

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www.illinois.aoa.org

2022 LICENSING CYCLE FAQs:

Q. Has the Department of Financial and Professional Regulations (IDFPR) or the Governor issued any changes to your 2022 CE renewal requirements?

A. Yes, IDPFR will be seeking emergency rules in November of 2021 to address the necessary changes for the 2022 renewal. Until that rule is in place, DFPR has released guidance to allow all CE to be done online through live, interactive, or pre-recorded courses sponsored by a licensed CE provider. The guidance published by IDFPR can be viewed here: <https://www.idfpr.com/Forms/COVID19/2021%2001%2014%20Optometry%20CE%20Guidance.pdf>

Q. How long is the guidance effective for?

A. The guidance is good until March 31st, 2022. The rules that DFPR are seeking will not be made permanent and will expire by the license expiration date. Until such time, this Guidance should be referenced when determining Optometry CE requirements.

Q: Is tested (TQ) CE required during the 2022 renewal period?

A: Since all CE can be taken online, DFPR has waived the requirement for 12 hours of TQ CE. ODs still need to complete 30 hours of CE.

Q: Has the out of state, in person, COPE approval process changed for the 2022 renewal cycle?

A: If you are taking out-of-state, COPE approved “in person” CE, the process remains unchanged.

Q: Can I take “virtual”, COPE approved CE by a non-licensed CE provider?

A. At this time, according to the DFPR’s guidance for optometry you must take all 30 hours by an Illinois licensed CE provider. The IOA is working to clarify this for our members.

Q: Is the CE provider I am using a current licensed CE provider?

A: You can check to see if a CE provider is licensed in Illinois by using IDFPR's License Lookup tool here: <https://ilesonline.idfpr.illinois.gov/DFPR/Lookup/LicenseLookup.aspx>

Q: Why is the entity I used to take my CE from not listed on DFPR’s licensed CE provider list?



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A: The CE provider did not seek to become or may have lapsed their license to be an Illinois licensed CE provider. If you have questions or concerns about the CE provider not being licensed in the State of Illinois, please contact the CE provider from whom you took CE.

Q: If I took virtual CE prior to DFPR's November guidance, will my CE count for credit toward my license?

A: Prior to the Dept. November guidance, only 4 hours of verified self-instruction or self-instruction by electronic means that is sponsored or co-sponsored by any approved optometry college, institution or national or state optometry association could be used for credit towards your 2022 renewal.

Q: I took multiple hours of virtual COPE approved CE by a non-licensed CE provider prior to DFPR's November guidance for optometry. Will my CE count toward my 2022 renewal?

A: Prior to DFPR's November guidance, optometrists were only allowed to take 4 hours of verified self-instruction or self-instruction by electronic means that is sponsored or co-sponsored by any approved optometry college, institution or national or state optometry association. The IOA has made an inquiry to DFPR for clarification regarding this and will update our members via the weekly InSight enews letter that is sent out each Friday and Insider Alerts when information becomes available.

Q: Why did I not receive an update from DFPR regarding the November guidance?

A: DFPR only updates professions through postings on their website. The IOA will update members via the weekly InSight enews letter that is sent out each Friday and Insider Alerts.

Q: I am a non-member and have questions regarding DFPR's guidance for the 2022 renewal?

A: Please contact DFPR at 1.888.473.4858 for more information.

Q: Where can I find updates on DFPR's guidance for the 2022 renewal period?

A: Information and updates can be found on DFPR's Covid19 Resource page, found here: <https://www.idfpr.com/COVID-19.asp>.