

Questions and Answers concerning SAO the “Society to Advance Opticianry”

Question: What is the purpose of the Society to Advance Opticianry?

Answer: Academic credentials are essential in order to advance the scope of practice within a profession. Setting high standards of education and credentialing is inherent to the growth of a profession’s current and “potential” future. Opticianry is the only profession with in the three “Os” that does not require formal academic education as an entry point into the profession. It is the stated goal of the SAO to make academic credentialing and advanced certification of Opticians the criterion by which Opticians are judged in the future. The mentoring of Opticians interested in achieving the high standards to become members of the Society to Advance Opticianry is a stated goal.

Question: What title will your members have and how might they benefit by being accepted as a member?

Answer: They will have the right and privilege to use the title “Ophthalmic Optician” the rest of their professional life and they will benefit through the efforts of the SAO to promote Ophthalmic Opticians as being the highest qualified and skilled Opticians in the optical industry to the public, doctors, and industry leaders.

Question: What are the initial certification and education requirements needed to become a member of the SAO?

Answer: Currently membership shall be open to Opticians who have:

1. Applicants must hold a current ABO and a current NCLE certification with at least one being an Advanced Certification.
2. Applicants must be currently licensed, if practicing Opticianry in a licensed state.
3. Applicants must have an AS/AA in General Studies from an accredited college, or a college approved by the board of directors of SAO.

Or

1. Applicants must hold a current ABO and a current NCLE certification.
2. Applicants must be currently licensed, if practicing Opticianry in a licensed state.
3. Applicants must have an AS/AAS in “Optical Science” from an accredited college, or a college approved by the board of directors of SAO.

Education credentials necessary to become a member of the SAO will increase gradually through December 31, 2020.