

# STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

## ADVANCED SCOPE OF PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

<b>Name:</b>	Advanced Scope of Practice Certification
<b>Date Approved:</b>	06/01/2016
<b>Date Updated:</b>	04/28/2017 04/15/2018 06/22/2018
<b>Number:</b>	SP-LR-3
<b>Type:</b>	Licensing Requirement (LR)
<b>Reference:</b>	The Optometry Act (2) (2) Subject to the approval of the minister, the council may make bylaws: (a) prescribing the qualifications for registration of members and governing the issue of license to members. (b) governing the examinations to be held for the purpose of the Act and prescribing the examination fees.

The Standard of Practice for Advanced Scope of Practice Certification ensures all Saskatchewan optometrists remain in the forefront of Canadian optometric practice. It recognizes that current optometric training and competencies include diagnosing, treating and managing glaucoma, as well as prescribing oral medications for the treatment of eye disease. All SAO members must demonstrate successful completion of an *Advanced Scope of Practice Certification Course* as approved by the Registrar.

### Background

The Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists (SAO) authorized the development and delivery of an Advanced Scope of Practice Certification Course created by the University of Waterloo in 2015 (June 3-5 and October 15-17). The Advanced Scope of Practice Certification Course supported national initiatives ensuring Canadian optometrists are providing patient care that reflects current training and competencies. The Advanced Scope of Practice Certification Course was designed to prepare SAO members for changes to scope of practice allowing optometrists licensed in Saskatchewan to diagnose, treat and manage glaucoma, and prescribe oral medications for the treatment of eye disease.

SAO members who did not obtain certification at the 2015 Saskatchewan Advanced Scope of Practice Certification Courses were required to obtain similar certification prior to applying for their 2017 license renewal. Any member who did not produce proof of successfully completing an Advanced Scope of Practice Certification Course or its equivalent by December 15, 2016 was not eligible for or issued a 2017 license renewal.

Optometrists who graduated from an accredited School of Optometry after January 1, 2015 were and will continue to be considered as having the equivalent of Advanced Scope of Practice Certification.

New applicants to the SAO who meet all requirements for licensure and have graduated from an accredited School of Optometry prior to 2015 are required to obtain certification equivalent to the Advanced Scope of Practice Certification Course before a Saskatchewan license to practice optometry can be granted. The Registrar may grant a temporary license to a new member providing the new member obtained the equivalent to Advanced Scope of Practice Certification by a specified date approved by the Registrar and Council.