

Fellowship Code of Conduct

A. It shall be the **duty and obligation** of Fellows of COVD to:

1. Practice optometry to the fullest extent of their professional capabilities, within the limits imposed by law.
2. Promote, advocate, and practice optometry following the developmental/behavioral philosophy of vision care.
3. Promote and advocate the importance of office based vision therapy.
4. Maintain their Fellowship Certification by continuous enhancement of their professional knowledge and proficiency by obtaining the required hours of continuing education specific to developmental/behavioral vision care.
5. Promote the COVD Fellowship process by encouraging peers to attain Fellowship and by being willing to serve as mentors to those seeking Fellowship certification.
6. Promote therapist certification by encouraging their therapists to become Certified Optometric Vision Therapists (COVTs) and be willing to assist their therapists in reaching this goal.
7. Communicate and interact with fellow optometrists; enhancing knowledge of developmental/behavioral vision care for the benefit of the public, patients, and optometry.
8. Be an example to fellow optometrists within COVD by being willing, when asked, to serve on committees and in leadership positions.
9. Maintain appropriate appearance and behavior, both within and outside of optometry.
10. Maintain their office and conduct their practice according to the current standards of care.
11. Appropriately refer to fellow health care providers.
12. Seek to uphold and improve the laws, regulations, and policies governing the delivery of optometric services to the public.
13. Respect patient confidentiality.
14. To conduct themselves as exemplary citizens and professionals with honesty, integrity, fairness, kindness, and compassion.

B. It shall be considered **unethical to**:

1. Use the title of FCOVD if the fellowship process has not been successfully completed.
2. Continue to use the title of FCOVD if their certification has expired.
3. Prevent a therapist that wishes to seek certification from doing so.
4. Use the title of COVT for any optometric vision therapist that has not successfully completed the certification process.

5. Make any claim or advertisement that violates their individual state or country's optometry laws and statutes.
6. Display or advertise certificates, honors or similar documents unless they have been legitimately earned and have not expired
7. Use any official position for self-aggrandizement.
8. Be found guilty of any criminal offense which subjects licensure or employment to review.