



NYSSO
New York State Society
of Opticians, Inc.

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NYSSO Continuing Education Guidelines

Course Guidelines

New York State Society of Opticians continuing education course topics will include, but will not be limited to:

Theoretical optics; ophthalmic optics; contact lens optics; ocular physiology; ocular anomalies, ocular pharmacology; fitting, adjusting, and dispensing ophthalmic and contact lenses; verification and interpretation of prescriptions; infection control; legal and regulatory issues related to ophthalmic dispensing; patient counseling; other optics which contribute to the professional practice of ophthalmic dispensing; or other matters of health care, law and ethics which contribute to the health and welfare of the public.

NYSSO will only approve continuing education courses that provide education and training specific to the profession of ophthalmic dispensing, including business management courses. **Course material should be generic in nature and not intended to be a promotional opportunity for a specific product and/or service. Specific products and/or services may be mentioned if comparable products and/or services from at least two other manufactures are reviewed.**

NYSSO will approve continuing education relating to a new product that is specific to only one manufacturer for six months. After six months, the course must be revised to meet our regular standard requirements.

Application for speaker/course approval

In order to receive New York State Continuing Education Credit for your educational program, a completed NYSSO Course Application must be submitted to NYSSO Headquarters along with the required course description and outline for course approval, and speaker resume and/or curriculum vitae for not-yet-approved speakers, 45 days in advance of the anticipated date of the presentation or publication.

Speaker submissions must include the following information to be considered for approval:

1. Name and current contact information
2. Current employment and relevant past employment experience
3. Education and training
4. Speaking experience and publications

Course submissions must include the following information to be considered for approval:

1. Course title
2. Content level
3. Course length and method of presentation
4. Lecturer(s)
5. Course description
6. Expected learning outcomes
7. Detailed course outline
8. Copies of teaching aids; i.e. handouts and/or presentation slides

If you have a potential course or are a potential speaker, but do not have a scheduled date for presentation, you may submit your resume and/or curriculum vitae, and/or course at any time to have them approved.

Based on the submitted materials, the NYSSO Education Committee may approve or reject the course, the speaker or both. Once a decision is made, a letter will be sent to the speaker or company notifying them of their approval status.

Once approved, NYS Continuing Education Credits may be offered through any NYSSO Region in New York State. Only mail-in credit sponsored by NYSSO will be honored if mailed to NYSSO Headquarters.

If you are already an approved speaker who is seeking approval for additional course(s); a resume and curriculum vitae are not required as they are already on file. Additionally, if you are only seeking approval as a speaker, and are presenting an already approved course, an outline and description are not required.

Please note, if any content changes are made to a course that has already been approved for continuing educations, and updated outline which includes the new content must be submitted to the NYSSO Education Committee for review and approval before it is to be presented. Upon approval for the new material a new NYSSO ID# will be issued.

Distributing continuing education certificates

NYS Continuing Education certificates should be passed out at the start of the course, one form to each participant as they enter the classroom. In order to receive course credit, each participant must be in attendance for the entire class. **Anyone absent for more than 10 minutes of class time should not be awarded credit.** Immediately following the completion of the course presentation all remaining NYS Continuing Educations certificates should be discarded. It is very important to ensure the ONLY those who have participated in the entire course receive the NYS Continuing Education certificates. The Regional Directors are responsible for ensuring that all participants are present for the entire class. Following the completion of the course, a NYSSO officer will stamp each participant's certificate with the NYSSO CEC stamp. **The CEC is not to be stamped unless the name of the participant is printed on each of the three portions of the certificates.** The continuing education credit is not valid without the NYSSO stamp.

In order to properly evaluate your course, NYSSO additionally requires each course participant to complete the course evaluation form to receive credit for the course.

The sign-in sheets and course evaluation forms are to be completed and returned by the NYSSO Regional Directors to the NYSSO Headquarters within 15 days following the course date. The appropriate forms will be distributed to record licensees who are not members, including but not limited to a CEC payment form.

Continuing education credit

NYSSO's NYS Continuing Education certificates are comprised of three tear-off sections.

The top section of the blue certificate is to be used for NYS Continuing Education credit. Individuals are to keep this portion of the certificate in their records for a **minimum of six years**. The certificate does not need to be submitted along with their license renewal forms, at the time of renewal; they only need to attest to the fact that they have completed the required hours. The Education Department will regularly conduct audits on a random basis. If audited, the individual will at that time need to show proof of their continuing education.

The middle section of the blue certificate is to be used by other states and credentialing bodies that accept NYS Continuing Education credits. For those individuals who possess a New York State Ophthalmic Dispensing License, ABO/NCLE will accept a copy of their current tri-annual license registration as proof of their continuing education completion; as NYS-required CEC supersedes ABO/NCLE requirements.

The bottom section of the blue certificate is an evaluation form required by NYSSO to maintain the integrity of our educational programs. Upon completion of the course, each individual should complete and submit this portion to the present Regional Director to be returned along with the course sign-in sheets.

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