



## **PLAR Application Package**

### **Overview of PLAR process**

Canadian and international applicants who have not graduated from a Canadian accredited program may be eligible complete a Prior Learning Assessment and Learning Assessment (PLAR) to determine if they are eligible to sit the National Examination(s).

The purpose of PLAR is to determine if you have a combination of knowledge and skills equivalent to a recent graduate from a Canadian accredited program. NACOR administers PLAR on behalf of the College of Opticians of British Columbia. After completing PLAR and passing the National Examination(s), you are eligible to register as an optician in British Columbia.

The PLAR process consists of:

- 1) Document review – See required list of documents at the end of the application form.
- 2) Complete Competency Gap Analysis (CGA) - If your documentation review is successful, you will be required to complete the CGA. The CGA is a multiple-choice assessment based on the National Competencies for Canadian Opticians. There are three CGA's, one for eyeglasses, one for contact lenses and one for refracting.

The number of questions and time limits for each CGA's are:

#### **Eyeglasses CGA – Consists of two sections**

Professional Practice – 120 questions/2-hour time limit

Eyeglasses and Low Vision – 165 questions/2.5-hour time limit

#### **Contact lenses CGA – Consists of one section**

Contact Lenses – 140 questions/2-hour time limit

If you are applying for eyeglasses and contact lenses you must complete both CGA's.

#### **Section 3 – Refracting certification**

Refracting – 120 questions/2-hour time limit

- 3) CGA results - The results from your CGA produce a computer-generated score card used to determine if there are any gaps in your knowledge and skills. If there are gaps bridging modules will be assigned for the gaps. You must complete any assigned bridging to be eligible to sit the National Examination(s). If there are no gaps in your skills and knowledge you will be eligible to sit the National Examination(s).
- 4) National Examination(s) – After completing PLAR you must pass the National Examination(s) before you can apply for a license in British Columbia. Candidates completing PLAR for refracting are eligible to apply for a certificate in automated refraction when they apply for their license.
- 5) Register as an optician with the College of Opticians of British Columbia.

**A) Registration Category**

Select ONE option from the list below:

- i. I want to register as a **DISPENSING OPTICIAN** ☐
- ii. I want to register as a **DISPENSING OPTICIAN AND CONTACT LENS FITTER** ☐
- iii. I want to register as a **DISPENSING OPTICIAN WITH A REFRACTING CERTIFICATION** ☐
- iv. I want to register as a **DISPENSING OPTICIAN AND CONTACT LENS FITTER WITH A REFRACTING CERTIFICATION** ☐
- v. I am **ALREADY** registered as a dispensing optician and want to become registered as a **CONTACT LENS FITTER** ☐
- vi. I am **ALREADY** registered as a dispensing optician (and/or contact lens fitter) and want to add a **REFRACTING CERTIFICATE** ☐

Choose one of the following, I am applying for PLAR:

I am an internationally trained eyecare professional \_\_\_\_\_

I have Canadian work experience \_\_\_\_\_

**B) Personal Information:**

Full Name (First, Middle, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**C) PLAR Fees:**

	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Total with tax</b>
<b>Document review</b>	250.00	<b>\$262.50</b>
<b>Competency Gap Analysis*</b>	350.00	<b>\$367.50</b>

\* For *each* area of practice assessed: Dispensing Optician, Contact Lens Fitter, and/or Refracting Certification

**D) Payment information**

Terms of payment please check one: Cheque payable to NACOR \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Name of card holder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of card holder \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR) to charge my credit card  
in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total owing is based on the Registration Category selected in section A) of this form.**

Category	Total owing
i.	\$630.00
ii.	\$997.50
iii.	\$997.50
iv.	\$1,365.00
v.	\$630.00
vi.	\$630.00

**D) Personal Affidavit**

I authorize the National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators to share the personal information on this application form with any regulator of opticians in Canada.

I authorize any regulator of opticians in Canada to release my personal information to the National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators.

I do solemnly swear that I have completed the application form above to the best of my knowledge and believe the completed form is correct and true.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of application** \_\_\_\_\_

Submit your completed application package by email to **jdodds@nacor.ca**

Questions: Send any questions regarding your application package to [jdodds@nacor.ca](mailto:jdodds@nacor.ca) or call  
1-866-949-1950 Extension 1

**Documentation required to be submitted for internationally trained eyecare professional applicants:**

- a) Completed application form.
- b) Two passport photos – photos must have been taken in the past three years.
- c) Details of work experience - Information to be recorded on the attached **Dispensing Experience Form**
- d) Letters from employer(s) – The letters are to be from current and/or former employers to confirm your work experience.
- e) Transcripts of formal education - Include name and location of school, date of enrolment and graduation, grade achieved, and course outlines.

The following documents are optional, to be provided if you have them:

- f) Examinations – If you have successfully challenged a licensure/certification examination in another country, provide the date of examination and mark achieved.
- g) Registration or license certificate – If you are registered or licensed in your home country provide a copy of your license or certificate and a letter from your regulatory organization confirming your registration.
- h) ICES, IQAS or WES - If you have had your international credentials evaluated in Canada, provide the report
- i) Language proficiency – If you have completed an English as a Second Language (ESL) course provide the name of the course you completed, the level completed and a copy of any certificates you received.

**Documentation required to be submitted for Canadian work experience applicants:**

- a) Completed application form.
- b) Two passport photos – photos must have been taken in the past three years.
- c) Details of work experience – To be recorded on the attached **Dispensing Experience Form**

## Dispensing Experience Form

**Please complete one form for each place of employment.**  
**Make copies of this form, as needed**

FULL NAME OF APPLICANT	LAST NAME:	
	FIRST NAME:	
	MIDDLE NAME(S):	
<b>RECORD OF ACTUAL DISPENSING EXPERIENCE (LAB HOURS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE)</b>		
BUSINESS NAME:		SELF-EMPLOYED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
BUSINESS ADDRESS:		
CITY:		PROVINCE:
POSTAL CODE:		COUNTRY:
TELEPHONE # (       )		E-MAIL:
FIRST DAY OF EMPLOYMENT (DD/MM/YY):		LAST DAY OF EMPLOYMENT (DD/MM/YY) (enter "N/A" if still employed):
HOURS PER WEEK DISPENSING (do not include hours that you are working in the lab, reception, frame stylist etc.):		<b>TOTAL HOURS OF DISPENSING: (Number of weeks worked at this location x number of hours per week you are dispensing at this location)</b>

### DECLARATION OF SUPERVISOR (Please Print)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, state that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and that \_\_\_\_\_ received the above actual dispensing hours during the specified period.

Date:

Signature of Supervisor: