

Colorado

State Association

Opticians Association of Colorado
4723 W Asbury Pl., Lakewood, CO 80227
<http://oacolorado.org/index.html>
President Irene Levangie

Licensing

No state board or licensing requirements

Editors Note* The Colorado Dept. of Regulatory Agencies states in the 1995 sunset review of optical and contact lens dispensers that “the Colorado Consumer Protection Act adequately protects the public, therefore no licensing is necessary,” despite numerous complaints to the Colorado Attorney General, Better Business Bureau and Denver District Attorney. The harms professed in these complaints did not *clearly enough* endanger the public according to the dept. of regulatory agencies. Receiving the wrong prescription, or being fitted improperly on several occasions were *temporary* harms that cost time, not permanent physiological impairment like a bad hair cut (yes barbers and hairstylists have to be licensed in Colorado).

Colorado Wage and Job Outlook

Dispensing optician median salary is \$31,000 according to dept. of labor and employment.

Job outlook is average 2.7% increase over next two years.

Colorado Boards and Regulatory Agencies

DORA

The Department of Regulatory Agencies is who would regulate opticians if the state were licensed.

Executive Director

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Statutes concerning Opticians in Colorado

[6-1-707. Use of title or degree - deceptive trade practice.](#)

Statute text

(1) A person engages in a deceptive trade practice when, in the course of such person's business, vocation, or occupation, such person:

(a) (I) Claims, either orally or in writing, to possess either an academic degree or an honorary degree or the title associated with said degree, unless the person has, in fact, been awarded said degree from an institution that is:

(A) Accredited by a regional or professional accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of education or the council on postsecondary accreditation, or is recognized as a candidate for accreditation by such an agency;

(B) Provided, operated, and supported by a state government or any of its political subdivisions or by the federal government;

(C) A school, institute, college, or university chartered outside the United States, the academic degree from which has been validated by an accrediting agency approved by the United States department of education as equivalent to the baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree conferred by a regionally accredited college or university in the United States;

(D) A religious seminary, institute, college, or university that offers only educational programs that prepare students for a religious vocation, career, occupation, profession, or lifework, and the nomenclature of whose certificates, diplomas, or degrees clearly identifies the religious character of the educational program;

(E) Authorized to grant degrees pursuant to article [2](#) of title [23](#), C.R.S.

(II) This paragraph (a) shall not apply to persons claiming degrees or certificates that were submitted as a requirement of the application process for licensure, certification, or registration pursuant to title [12](#), C.R.S.

(III) No person awarded a doctorate degree from an institution not listed in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) shall claim in the state, either orally or in writing, the title "Dr." before the person's name or any mark, appellation, or series of letters, numbers, or words, such as, but not limited to, "Ph.D.", "Ed.D.", "D.N.", or "D.Th.", which signify, purport, or are generally taken to signify satisfactory completion of the requirements of a doctorate degree, after the person's name.

(b) Claims either orally or in writing to be a "dietitian", "dietician", "certified dietitian", or "certified dietician" or uses the abbreviation "C.D." or "D." to indicate that such person is a dietitian, unless such person:

(I) Possesses a baccalaureate, masters, or doctorate degree in human nutrition, foods and nutrition, dietetics, nutrition education, food systems management, or public health nutrition from an institution that is:

(A) Accredited by a regional or professional accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of education or the council on postsecondary accreditation, or is recognized as a candidate for accreditation by such accrediting agency;

(B) Authorized to grant degrees pursuant to article [2](#) of title [23](#), C.R.S.; or

(C) A school, institute, college, or university chartered outside the United States, the academic degree from which has been validated by an accrediting agency approved by the United States department of education as equivalent to a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree conferred by a regionally accredited college or university in the United States; and

(II) Meets one of the following:

(A) Completes at least nine hundred hours of a planned, continuous, preprofessional work experience in a nutrition or dietetic practice under the supervision of a qualified dietitian;

or

- (B) Holds a certificate of registered dietitian through the commission on dietetic registration;
- (c) Claims either orally or in writing to be a "certified occupational therapist", an "occupational therapist registered", a "licensed occupational therapist", or an "occupational therapist" or uses the abbreviation "O.T.", "O.T.R.", or "O.T.R./L." to indicate that such person is an occupational therapist unless such person:
- (I) Has earned a baccalaureate, masters, or doctorate degree in occupational therapy from an institution that is:
- (A) Accredited by the north central council of colleges and schools and by the American occupational therapy association's accreditation council for occupational therapy education; or
- (B) A school, institute, college, or university chartered outside the United States, the academic degree from which has been validated by the world federation of occupational therapists, the American occupational therapy association, or other nationally recognized accrediting agency; and
- (II) Meets all of the following:
- (A) Has completed the minimum requirements of internship under the supervision of an occupational therapist;
- (B) Successfully passed the entry-level certification examination given by the American occupational therapy certification board or the national board for certification in occupational therapy; and
- (C) Holds an initial certificate through the American occupational therapy certification board or the national board for certification in occupational therapy;
- (III) and (IV) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2002, p. 97, § 1, effective August 7, 2002.)
- (d) (I) Claims either orally or in writing to be a "certified optician" or "certified opticien", unless such person holds a current certificate of competence issued by the American board of opticianry. Each certificate shall be prominently displayed or maintained in such person's place of business and made available for immediate inspection and review by any consumer or agent of the state of Colorado. No person may associate a service, product, or business name with the title "certified optician" unless such person holds the required certificate of competence. This paragraph (d) shall not apply to persons authorized under article 36 or 40 of title [12](#), C.R.S., to practice medicine or optometry.
- (II) Performs or claims orally or in writing to be able to perform the following procedures, and such person is a certified optician:
- (A) Vision therapy;
- (B) Refractions;
- (C) Automated refractions; except that a certified optician may use an auto refractor to provide vision screenings for the sole purpose of determining if the subject of the screening needs a further eye examination;
- (D) Refractometry;
- (E) Fitting contact lenses;
- (F) Keratometry or automated keratometry; or
- (G) Any other act that constitutes the practice of optometry or the practice of medicine.
- (III) A certified optician does not engage in a deceptive trade practice under subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (d), if said optician performs the described procedures

under the direction and supervision of a person who has statutory authority under title [12](#), C.R.S., to supervise the work of others within the scope of his or her license.

History

[12-40-117. Patient's exercise of free choice - release of patient records.](#)

Statute text

(1) No person shall interfere with any patient's exercise of free choice in the selection of practitioners licensed to perform examinations for refractions and visual training or corrections within the field for which their respective licenses entitle them to practice.

(2) An optometrist shall release to a patient all medical records pursuant to section [25-1-802](#), C.R.S.

(3) The optometrist shall release to the patient, upon written request, a valid, written contact lens prescription at the time the optometrist would otherwise replace a contact lens without any additional preliminary examination or fitting. The board shall promulgate rules and regulations defining the components of a valid written contact lens prescription.