

COA Certification Requirements

To qualify for certification at the Assistant level, you must meet one of the following three options:

A1. GRADUATE OF A FORMAL CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM¹

- Graduated from a CoA-OMP accredited Clinical Ophthalmic Assistant program within the 12 months (one-year) prior to submitting your application.
 - If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to obtain 18 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation.
- No work experience is necessary.

A2. GRADUATE OF A FORMAL TRAINING PROGRAM AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Graduated from a CoA-OMP accredited Ophthalmic Assistant program within the 12 months prior to submitting your application.
 - If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to obtain 18 JCAHPO Group A credits, for each year following graduation.
- Worked at least 500 hours (three months full-time equivalent) under ophthalmologic supervision within 12 months prior to submitting your application.

A3. COMPLETION OF INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Graduated from high school or equivalent.
- Successfully completed a CoA-OMP approved independent study course (e.g., JCAHPO Independent Study Course, American Academy of Ophthalmology Independent Study Course, or the Canadian Ophthalmological Society Home Study Course offered through Centennial College or Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) within the 36 months prior to submitting your exam application.
 - If you completed an independent study course more than 36 months ago, you will need to repeat the course or submit 18 Group A credits for each year following completion.
- Worked at least 1,000 hours (six months full-time equivalent) under ophthalmologic supervision within 12 months prior to submitting your application.

COA/CCOA Content Outlines - Multiple-Choice Examinations

(Effective before mid-to-late 2009)

COA/CCOA candidates are examined in Content Areas 1-6.

CONTENT AREA		% of exam
1	History Taking	20
2	Basic Skills & Lensometry	17
3	Patient Services	16
4	Basic Tonometry	15
5	Instrument Maintenance	11
6	General Medical Knowledge	21

¹ Individuals who graduate from an accredited formal training program at the Technician or Technologist level are eligible to apply for a lower-level certification under the formal training program eligibility option. For example, graduates of an accredited Ophthalmic Technician program may choose to apply for certification at the Ophthalmic Assistant level. Likewise, graduates for an accredited Ophthalmic Technologist program may choose to apply for certification at the Ophthalmic Assistant or the Ophthalmic Technician level.