

Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist Certification Requirements (COMT)

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

TG1. GRADUATE OF A FORMAL TRAINING PROGRAM AND TWO OR MORE YEARS OF COLLEGE EDUCATION¹

- Graduated from a CoA-OMP or CMA accredited program for Ophthalmic Technologists within the 12 months (one-year) prior to submitting your application. The Performance Test application and all examinations must be completed within 36 months (three-years) of initial application. *(Candidates who attend a formal training program may apply for the certification exam up to two months prior to graduation from the program; however, no examination results will be sent by JCAHPO to the candidate until official notification of graduation is received).*
- If you completed the program more than 12 months (one-year) ago, you will need to earn 12 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation. These credits must be earned within the 36 months (three-years) prior to submitting your exam application.
- Successful completion of two or more years of college and/or university-level courses (90 quarter or 60 semester credits).
- No work experience is necessary.

TG2. GRADUATE OF A FORMAL TRAINING PROGRAM WITH LESS THAN TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Graduated from a CoA-OMP or CMA accredited program for Ophthalmic Technologists within the 12 months (one year) prior to submitting your application. The Performance Test application and all examinations must be completed within 36 months (three-years) of initial application. *(Candidates who attend a formal training program may apply for the certification exam up to two months prior to graduation from the program; however, no examination results will be sent by JCAHPO to the candidate until official notification of graduation is received).*
- If you completed the program more than 12 months (one-year) ago, you will need to earn 12 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation. These credits must be earned within the 36 months (three-years) prior to submitting your exam application.
- Worked at least 4,000 hours 24 months (two-years full-time) under ophthalmologic supervision.

TG3. CURRENTLY CERTIFIED AS A COT AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Worked at least 6,000 hours (three-years full-time equivalent) as a COT, under ophthalmologic supervision.
- Earned 12 JCAHPO Group A credits within the 12 months (one-year) prior to submitting your exam application.
- Maintained certification as a COT while pursuing COMT certification.

TG4. CURRENTLY CERTIFIED AS AN ORTHOPTIST AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Worked at least 4,000 hours (two-years full-time equivalent) as a CO or OC(C), under ophthalmologic supervision within the 60 months (five-years) prior to submitting your application.
- Earned 12 JCAHPO Group A credits within the 12 months (one-year) prior to submitting your exam application.
- Maintained certification as an Orthoptist (by the American Orthoptic Council or the Canadian Orthoptic Council) while pursuing COMT certification.

COMT Multiple-Choice Examination Content Areas

Please refer to Appendix A to review the content areas.

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 of an accredited Ophthalmic Technologist program may choose to apply for certification at the Ophthalmic Assistant or the Ophthalmic Technician level. CoA-OMP - Committee on Accreditation for Ophthalmic Medical Personnel; CMA - Canadian Medical Association; CAAHEP - Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

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COMT Examination Requirements

In addition to completing the COMT multiple-choice examination, COMT candidates need to complete a skill-based performance test. The performance test is composed of two parts – the COT Skill Evaluation and the COMT Performance Test. If a candidate has previously successfully completed the COT Skill Evaluation and maintained the COT certification, it is not necessary to repeat it. Please refer to Appendix A or B to view the tasks on the COT Skill Evaluation.

COMT Performance Test

The computer simulated COMT Performance Test is currently available at the JCAHPO headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact the JCAHPO Certification Department for available future additional testing locations or to schedule an appointment to take the Performance Test in St. Paul.

Content Areas for the COMT Performance Test

Please refer to Appendix A to review the tasks on the COMT Performance Test.

Performance Test and Specifications

You will have a total of 60 minutes to complete all five tasks. There is no time limit on each of the individual tasks. Lensometry is offered in plus (+) and minus (-) cylinder.

Performance Test Construction and Scoring

The areas of performance included in the test are those most commonly performed by Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologists (COMTs), according to a job task analysis survey of working technologists and sponsoring ophthalmologists.

The performance test scoring system is based on performance steps and the candidate is evaluated on how well each task is performed. The system includes these elements:

- Each skill is scored independently.
- Each skill is scored on two components: technique and accuracy of results. To determine the technique score, each skill is divided into steps. Each step is assigned a weighted value based upon its level of importance to the overall process, as determined by the panel of subject matter experts. Points are assigned for correct responses based upon the weighted value of the step. A minimum threshold has been established for achieving a “satisfactory” score. If this established minimum is not met, a “non-satisfactory” score will be assigned.
- To evaluate the accuracy of results, the panel of subject matter experts has established tolerance ranges for each of the required categories. To receive a “satisfactory” score on accuracy of results, all required results must fall within the tolerance ranges. Otherwise, a “non-satisfactory” score will be assigned.

A “satisfactory” score in both technique and accuracy of results is required to pass each individual skill. A passing score in all five skill areas is needed to successfully complete the Performance Test.

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Preparation Strategies

The COMT Performance Test confirmation letter will contain a link to a tutorial, login/password, and a procedural checklist. The checklist details the steps necessary to perform each task. The following steps may assist you in preparing for the Performance Test:

1. Review the tutorial carefully for critical information on the mechanics of the computer-based Performance Test. The tutorial allows you the opportunity to manipulate some of the dials and controls on the simulated equipment. While the tutorial is not intended to teach you how to perform the tasks, it will assist you in becoming familiar with how to maneuver through the exam, and record results.
2. Practice. Become proficient at performing the skills tested and using the equipment upon which these skills are performed.
3. Understand the theory behind the task in order to build your confidence and help you make on-the-spot decisions during the evaluation.
4. Review the procedural checklist for a detailed list of steps and the preferred order in which to perform them.
5. Ask your employer for opportunities to practice the skills on actual equipment in your work setting.
6. Focus on doing your personal best; your score is not affected by anyone else's.

Completion of the Performance Test

There are three possible outcomes to the initial attempt of the Performance Test:

1. *You successfully complete all five performance areas (Pass).* In this case, you are awarded the COMT credential, and no re-testing is necessary.
2. *You successfully complete some, but not all, of the five performance areas.* In this case, you receive a “conditional” pass. You will have the opportunity to re-test in the areas you did not successfully complete provided that you are within the 36-month (three-years) time period from the date of when your initial multiple-choice application was approved.
3. *You do not successfully complete any of the five skill areas (Fail).* In this case, you must reapply and repeat the entire Performance Test at a future session, provided that you are within the 36-month (three-year) time period from the date your initial multiple-choice application was approved.

All candidates (initial or conditioned) are given a total of 60 minutes to complete the Performance Test and must wait a minimum of six weeks before retesting. If a re-test is not successful, you will be expected to repeat only the areas in which you were not successful. A candidate may retest up to three times as long as you remain within the 36-month (three-year) time period stated above. If you do not pass within the 36-month (three-year) time period, or after four attempts, a new COMT multiple-choice exam application needs to be submitted with eligibility, supporting documentation, and required fees.