

COT Certification Requirements

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

T1. GRADUATE OF A FORMAL TRAINING PROGRAM¹

- Graduated from a CoA-OMP, CMA, or CAAHEP accredited program for Ophthalmic Technicians within the 12 months (one year) prior to submitting your application. The Skill Evaluation application and all examinations must be completed within 24 months of initial application.
 - If you completed the program more than 12 months 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 prior to submitting your application.
- No work experience is necessary.

T2. CURRENTLY CERTIFIED AS A COA AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Worked at least 2,000 hours (one year full-time equivalent) as a COA, under ophthalmologic supervision within 24 months prior to submitting your application.
- Earned 12 JCAHPO Group A credits within the 12 months prior to submitting your exam application.
- Maintained certification as a COA while pursuing COT certification.

T3. CURRENTLY CERTIFIED AS AN ORTHOPTIST AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Worked at least 2,000 hours (one-year full-time equivalent) as a CO or OC(C), under ophthalmologic supervision within the 24 months (two years) prior to submitting your exam application.
- Earned 12 JCAHPO Group A credits within the 12 months prior to submitting your exam application.
- Maintained certification as an Orthoptist (by the American Orthoptic Council or the Canadian Orthoptic Council) while pursuing COT certification.

COT Content Outlines - Multiple-Choice Examinations

COT candidates are examined in Content Areas 1-13.

CONTENT AREA		% of exam
1	History Taking	7
2	Basic Skills & Lensometry	8
3	Patient Services	4
4	Basic Tonometry	4
5	Instrument Maintenance	6
6	General Medical Knowledge	10
7	Clinical Optics	14
8	Basic Ocular Motility	10
9	Visual Fields	12
10	Contact Lenses	10
11	Intermediate Tonometry	4
12	Ocular Pharmacology	8
13	Photography	3

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.