



Competency Assessment

The Policy Issue

CAO and the profession of optometry strongly support the requirement for a post-graduation, entry to practice competency assessment. It is important that the assessment takes into account the National Competency Profile for Entry-Level Optometry. This profile includes the competencies required of optometrists for safe, effective, and ethical practice at the point of entry to the profession in Canada.ⁱ These competencies were developed by the Canadian Examiners in Optometry (CEO-ECO) in concert with the profession, and they form the basis of CEO-ECO's *Canadian Assessment of Competence in Optometry (CACO)*.

Policy Position

Competency assessment for individuals seeking to practice optometry in Canada should be part of a uniform, national occupational requirement and should be designed and administered solely by Canadian optometry in order to reflect Canadian standards and competencies.

Policy Approved by CAO Council Sept 2016

ⁱ The competencies currently assessed are Communication, Professionalism, Patient-Centered Care, Assessment, Diagnosis and Planning, Patient Management, Collaborative Practice, Scholarship, and Practice Management.