



# Optometry Admission Test (OAT) 2017 Program Guide

Read this *Guide* before submitting an application to test.

At the time of application, you will be required to acknowledge that you have read and understood this *Guide* and the policies and procedures contained within.

Print this *Guide* for your records.



**OAT** Optometry  
Admission Test

OAT IS A SERVICE OF  
**ASCO** ASSOCIATION of  
SCHOOLS and COLLEGES  
of OPTOMETRY

Optometry Admission Testing Program  
800.232.1694  
[www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

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## OVERVIEW

<b>About this <i>Guide</i></b>	This document is the official guide to policies and procedures for the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). It provides information about application and testing procedures, examination content, and scoring.
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### **You are required to read this document before you apply to take the test.**

During the application process, you will be required to confirm you have read this document, understood its contents, and agree to the policies and procedures contained herein.

Changes to the OAT Program might occur after publication of this *Guide* and will be posted at [ADA.org/OAT](http://ADA.org/OAT). You must abide by the policies and procedures currently in effect at the time you test.

<b>About the OAT</b>	<p>The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) conducts the Optometry Admission Testing Program (OAT) for applicants seeking admission to schools and colleges of optometry.</p> <p>The OAT is designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. The OAT is administered year-round at test centers operated by Prometric.</p> <p>While all optometry schools require applicants to participate in the OAT Program, OAT Program test results are only one factor considered in evaluating applicant admission potential. Validity studies have shown that test scores in conjunction with academic records are useful in predicting performance in optometry school. The relative importance of these predictors in the admission process is determined by each optometry school.</p>
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<b>Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and American Optometric Association (AOA) Information</b>	<p>The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) provides information on the American Optometric Association (AOA), the names of accredited schools and colleges of optometry, as well as many other useful links at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>.</p> <p>For additional information concerning educational requirements and careers in optometry, contact ASCO and the AOA.</p>
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<b>Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and American Optometric Association (AOA) Information</b> <i>(Continued)</i>	Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 420 Rockville, MD 20852 301.231.5944 301.770.1828 Fax <a href="http://www.ADA.org/OAT">www.ADA.org/OAT</a>
	American Optometric Association 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63141 314.991.4100 314.991.4101 Fax <a href="http://www.AOA.org">www.AOA.org</a>

<b>Ethical Conduct in Applying to Optometry Education Programs</b>	The American Optometric Association (AOA) Code of Ethics for the profession of optometry states the following:
	<p>It shall be the ideal, resolve, and duty of all optometrists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To keep their patients' eye, vision, and general health paramount at all times;</li> <li>To respect the rights and dignity of patients regarding their health care decisions;</li> <li>To advise their patients whenever consultation with, or referral to, another optometrist or other health professional is appropriate;</li> <li>To ensure confidentiality and privacy of patients' protected health and other personal information;</li> <li>To ensure that all persons have access to eye, vision, and general health care;</li> <li>To advance their professional knowledge and proficiency to maintain and expand competence to benefit their patients;</li> <li>To maintain their practices in accordance with professional health care standards;</li> </ul>

**Ethical Conduct in  
Applying to Optometry  
Education Programs**

*(Continued)*

To promote ethical and cordial relationships with all members of the health care community;

To recognize their obligation to protect the health and welfare of society; and

To conduct themselves as exemplary citizens and professionals with honesty, integrity, fairness, kindness, and compassion

The above statement is pertinent for all individuals seeking admission to optometry education programs. The application process is the time to understand and begin to adhere to the ethical obligations of optometrists.

Members of the optometry profession voluntarily abide by the AOA Code of Ethics in the interest of protecting patients and maintaining the trust of society as a whole.

Submission of an application to an optometry education program is the first step in the process of becoming a member of the optometry profession. With the application comes the obligation to uphold the highest level of honesty and ethical behavior. An applicant is held to the same high standards for truth, full disclosure, and accuracy in the application process to which a member of the optometry profession is held in their capacity as a member of the profession.

Applicants to optometry educational programs are expected to understand and comply with the standards expressed in this statement in their applications for admission to optometry school and their applications to take the OAT.

Behavior that results in misconduct or irregularity in the optometry education program admission process is a very serious matter. An applicant who acts unethically risks being denied admission to optometry education programs. Moreover, such unethical actions can result in more serious outcomes if they are discovered after enrollment in a program or at the beginning of optometry practice.

<p><b>Ethical Conduct in Applying to Optometry Education Programs</b> (Continued)</p>	<p>It is important that applicants understand the significance of exhibiting professional behavior throughout their careers, beginning with the application process.</p> <p>The OAT Program and ASCO expect strong ethical behavior in all current and aspiring optometric professionals.</p>
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**TEST CONTENT AND TEST PREPARATION MATERIALS**

<p><b>Scope of the Test</b></p>	<p>The OAT is composed of multiple-choice test items presented in the English language. The test is developed according to established test specifications. The OAT consists of a battery of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences, Reading Comprehension, Physics, and Quantitative Reasoning.</p> <p>In the OAT, both the U.S. customary system and the metric system (Imperial System, International System) of units are used. Additional information on test content is provided below.</p>	
<p><b>SURVEY OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES (100 items)</b></p>		
<p><b>Biology (40)</b></p>		
<p>Cell and Molecular Biology</p>	<p>Origin of life, cell metabolism (including photosynthesis/enzymology), cellular processes, thermodynamics, organelle structure and function, mitosis/meiosis, cell structure, experimental cell biology, biomolecules, and integrated relationships</p>	
<p>Diversity of Life</p>	<p>Biological Organization and Relationship of Major Taxa (Six-Kingdom, Three-Domain System) – plantae, animalia, protista, fungi, eubacteria (bacteria), archaea, and integrated relationships</p>	
<p>Structure and Function of Systems</p>	<p>Integumentary, skeletal, muscular, circulatory, immunological, digestive, respiratory, urinary, nervous/senses, endocrine, reproductive, and integrated relationships</p>	
<p>Developmental Biology</p>	<p>Fertilization, descriptive embryology, developmental mechanisms, experimental embryology, and integrated relationships</p>	
<p>Genetics</p>	<p>Molecular genetics, human genetics, classical genetics, chromosomal genetics, genetic technology, and integrated relationships</p>	

Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior	Natural selection, population genetics/speciation, population and community ecology, ecosystems, animal behavior (including social behavior), and integrated relationships
General Chemistry (30)	
Stoichiometry and General Concepts	Percent composition, empirical formulas, balancing equations, moles and molecular formulas, molar mass, density, and calculations from balanced equations
Gases	Kinetic molecular theory of gases, Dalton's, Boyle's, Charles's, and ideal gas law
Liquids and Solids	Intermolecular forces, phase changes, vapor pressure, structures, polarity, and properties
Solutions	Polarity, properties (colligative, noncolligative), forces, and concentration calculations
Acids and Bases	pH, strength, Brønsted-Lowry reactions, and calculations
Chemical Equilibria	Molecular, acid/base, precipitation, calculations, and Le Chatelier's principle
Thermodynamics and Thermochemistry	Laws of thermodynamics, Hess's law, spontaneity, enthalpies and entropies, and heat transfer
Chemical Kinetics	Rate laws, activation energy, and half-life
Oxidation-Reduction Reactions	Balancing equations, determination of oxidation numbers, electrochemical calculations, and electrochemical concepts and terminology
Atomic and Molecular Structure	Electron configuration, orbital types, Lewis-Dot diagrams, atomic theory, quantum theory, molecular geometry, bond types, and sub-atomic particles
Periodic Properties	Representative elements, transition elements, periodic trends, and descriptive chemistry
Nuclear Reactions	Balancing equations, binding energy, decay processes, particles, and terminology
Laboratory	Basic techniques, equipment, error analysis, safety, and data analysis
Organic Chemistry (30)	
Mechanisms	Energetics and Structure – elimination, addition, free radical, substitution mechanisms, and other mechanisms and reactions.



Chemical and Physical Properties of Molecules	Spectroscopy ( $^1\text{H}$ NMR, $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR, infrared, and multi-spectra), structure (polarity, intermolecular forces (solubility, melting/boiling point, etc.), and laboratory theory and techniques (TLC, separations, etc.)
Stereochemistry (structure evaluation)	Chirality, isomer relationships, and conformations
Nomenclature	IUPAC rules and functional groups in molecules
Individual Reactions of the Major Functional Groups and Combinations of Reactions to Synthesize Compounds	Alkene/alkyne, aromatic, substitution/elimination, aldehyde/ketone, carboxylic acids and derivatives, and other. For <u>each</u> area listed above, the following sub-areas apply: general, one-step, and multistep.
Acid-Base Chemistry	Ranking acidity/basicity (structure analysis and pH/pK <sub>a</sub> data analysis), and prediction of products and equilibria
Aromatics and Bonding	Concept of aromaticity, resonance, atomic/molecular orbitals, hybridization, and bond angles/lengths.
<b>READING COMPREHENSION (50 items)</b>	
The Reading Comprehension Test contains three reading passages on various scientific topics. Prior understanding of the science topics is not a prerequisite to answering the test items. The reading passages require the ability to read, comprehend, and thoroughly analyze basic scientific information.	
<b>PHYSICS (40 items)</b>	
Units and vectors, linear kinematics, statics, dynamics, rotational motion, energy and momentum, simple harmonic motion, waves, fluid statics, thermal energy and thermodynamics, electrostatics, D.C. circuits, and optics.	
<b>QUANTITATIVE REASONING (40 items)</b>	
Mathematical Problems	Algebra (equations and expressions, inequalities, exponential notation, absolute value, ratios and proportions, and graphical analysis); Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Sufficiency; Quantitative Comparison; and Probability and Statistics.

Applied Mathematics (Word) Problems	<p>A basic four-function calculator is available on the computer screen in the Quantitative Reasoning Test section.</p> 
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<b>Test Preparation</b>	<p><u>Practice Test</u></p> <p>OAT preparation materials can be found at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>. These materials contain samples of the four tests used in the OAT. Samples are available to assist applicants in discovering possible areas of weakness in comprehension of subjects covered on the test, to become familiar with the types of materials included in the test, and to become familiar with the general format of the various parts of the test battery. The preparation materials provide an opportunity to become familiar with the OAT format and sample questions. The preparation materials are not designed to provide feedback on individual performance. The set of sample items provided do not exactly follow current standards or test specifications.</p> <p><b>The OAT Program does not endorse any specific test preparation courses and has no data on the content or efficacy of test preparation courses designed to prepare you to take the OAT.</b></p> <p>The OAT Program urges individuals considering participating in test preparation courses to carefully review course materials to ensure those materials reflect the current content of the OAT.</p>
	<p><u>Tutorial</u></p> <p>A tutorial to acquaint you with OAT administration procedures is available from a link on <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a> under “OAT Test Preparation Material.” The tutorial includes sample OAT items, and allows you to become familiar with the basic steps</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Test Preparation</b> <i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>involved in proceeding through the test. At the Prometric test center you will also be given an opportunity to take a brief tutorial before taking the test.</p>
	<p><u>Test Drive</u></p> <p>Additionally, you can become familiar with the computer testing experience through Prometric's <b>Test Drive</b> on Prometric.com. In 30 minutes, you can experience an overview of the testing experience you will encounter on the actual testing day. During the overview, you can participate in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scheduling and registration process</li> <li>• The complete check-in process</li> <li>• Introduction to test center staff and surroundings</li> <li>• 15-minute sample test (a generic test, not OAT specific) demonstrating the testing process</li> <li>• Full preparation for the real test</li> </ul> <p>Visit Prometric's <a href="#">Test Drive</a> on Prometric.com for further details and pricing.</p> <p>Successful test preparation requires hard work, dedication, and commitment. There are no shortcuts to the process of learning.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Confidentiality of Test Materials</b></p>	<p>Current test items represent confidential, copyrighted intellectual property. <u>Obtaining, using, or distributing current test items is strictly prohibited regardless of the method employed (whether by memorization, recording, copying, or other means).</u> This prohibition includes the discussion, distribution, or online posting of remembered test questions or answers, in whole or in part.</p> <p>Use or sharing of current test content violates the Test Regulations and Rules of Conduct. Such activities could provide unfair advantage to individuals or groups of individuals and threaten the validity and credibility of the test. Since all OAT items are protected under copyright, these prohibited activities also violate federal copyright laws.</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>The OAT Program investigates reports or allegations associated with the generation, use, or sharing of current test materials, and will pursue formal action against anyone who violates Test Regulations or federal copyright law, which could include voiding of exam results or institution of legal action.</b></p>

## SCORE INFORMATION

<b>Scoring of Test</b>	<p>OAT scores are based on the number of correct responses obtained; applicants are not penalized for guessing. OAT results are reported in terms of scale scores. These scale scores are neither raw scores (number correct) nor percentiles. The conversion of raw scores to scale scores is accomplished using equating procedures.</p> <p>Each test includes questions that enable the OAT Program to place different forms of the test on a common measurement scale, thereby adjusting the forms for any differences in form difficulty level. Because of this adjustment, applicant scores have the same meaning regardless of the test form that was administered.</p> <p>Other questions on the test are experimental and are not scored. The data collected on unscored questions is used in later test construction procedures, to ensure that these questions are appropriate before they become scored items. Unscored questions are presented in the same manner as scored questions.</p>
<b>Test Validity and Score Reliability</b>	<p>Reliability and validity are two means by which users can evaluate how well a test is performing relative to its purpose.</p> <p>Reliability refers to the degree to which test scores are free from random sources of measurement error. Annual studies clearly demonstrate that OAT scores are highly reliable.</p> <p>Validity refers to the extent to which available evidence supports the interpretation and use of test results for their intended purpose. Annual validity studies examining the relationship between test scores and optometry grades have indicated strong predictive validity relative to performance in optometry school programs. Details of the most recent OAT validity study are available at: <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>.</p> <p>A number of procedures are used to ensure that tests are fair to all applicants regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or regional background. The test construction process involves a review of questions to ensure that they are not differentially</p>

<p><b>Test Validity and Score Reliability</b> (Continued)</p>	<p>familiar to any groups of individuals. Further, as a part of the test analysis process, data is analyzed from a fairness perspective. Any questions that might appear differentially familiar are evaluated and, if appropriate, modified, or removed from scoring.</p>
<p><b>Score Reports</b></p>	<p>After your OAT appointment is completed, you will receive an unofficial score report at the Prometric test center. In the unofficial score report, scale scores are reported.</p> <p>This report is your personal copy. No other score report will be sent to you. <b>If you do not receive your unofficial score report after completing the OAT, please notify the OAT Program within five days via an email sent to <a href="mailto:eatexam@ada.org">eatexam@ada.org</a>.</b></p> <p>After an applicant has taken any part of the OAT, those scores cannot be voided at the request of the applicant.</p> <p>Your personal copy of the score report issued at the Prometric test center is an unofficial report that is subject to audit as part of the quality review process. Falsification of score reports or misrepresentation of a score report could result in cancellation of your scores and the imposition of a mandatory two-year wait period to retest.</p> <p>All U.S. schools and colleges of optometry require official OAT scores. Official scores will be reported electronically to your “My Account” (within three to four weeks of your test date) and to the optometry schools you select on your OAT application. You may review the schools you have requested by logging into the My Account page at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>. When you select optometry schools to receive your official scores, you grant the OAT Program permission to release your official scores to the optometry schools selected on your OAT application. Scores will not be released without your authorization.</p> <p>If you test more than once, a history of your testing attempts is reported. Please confer with your pre-optometry advisor regarding test results. You can request that your scores be made available to your pre-optometry advisor at no charge at the time of application. These reports are sent to pre-optometry advisors on a periodic basis.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Score Reports</b> (Continued)</p>	<p>If your application includes a request that scores be sent to optometry schools participating in OptomCAS, the OAT Program will report your official scores to both the schools and to OptomCAS within three to four weeks of your test date. You must select at least one school that participates in OptomCAS in order to have your scores sent to that agency.</p> <p><b>If your application has no optometry schools selected, then you have not granted permission to release your official scores. Schools selected at the time of application are included in the OAT fee, regardless of the number of schools selected.</b></p> <p><b>Requests for additional score reports must be submitted using the score report request form available at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>. Additional fees apply when sending reports to optometry schools or other recipients not selected at the time of application (see the Testing Fees section of this <i>Guide</i>).</b></p> <p><b>Score report fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Guide for Interpretation of OAT Scores</b></p>	<p>Each of the sections on the OAT yields a raw score, which is the sum of the applicant’s correct answers. The raw score is converted to a scale score. On the OAT, scores range from 200 to 400 and are reported in increments of 10. Using a scale score, it is possible to compare performance of one applicant with the performance of all applicants on any or all of the measures included in this admission testing program.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Score Audits</b></p>	<p>Before official OAT scores are reported, the OAT Program conducts a quality review of all results in order to confirm their accuracy.</p> <p>The OAT Program also reviews test center reports regarding irregularities and violations of Test Regulations.</p> <p>For a period of 30 days after your testing appointment, the OAT Program is willing to audit your OAT results. There is an additional charge for this service (see the Testing Fees section of this <i>Guide</i>). This process takes approximately four to eight weeks. The audit request form is available at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>.</p>

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The OAT Program does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status.

Successful participants in the OAT Program typically complete two or more years of college education before taking the test, including courses in biology, and general and organic chemistry. Advanced level biology and physics are not required.

Optometry school applicants are encouraged to take the OAT well in advance of the optometry school admission cycle. Applicants applying to Canadian optometry schools should confirm the acceptability of the OAT by schools prior to applying for the test.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Retesting</b></p>	<p>Applicants are required to submit a new application and fee for each retest.</p> <p><b>Applicants must wait at least 90 days from their last attempt before retaking the OAT; there are no exceptions to the 90-day waiting period.</b></p> <p>Applicants who have three or more OAT attempts must apply for permission to test again. From that point forward, they may retest only once per 12-month period.</p> <p>A testing attempt occurs each time the applicant is seated at a workstation at a Prometric test center and starts the test by electronically agreeing to the confidentiality statement.</p>
	<p>Applicants who are requesting additional testing beyond three attempts must submit their request in writing to <a href="mailto:ootexam@ada.org">ootexam@ada.org</a> and must include one of the following acceptable forms of evidence of their demonstrated intent to apply to optometry school within the previous 18 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copy of a completed and submitted application to optometry school</li> <li>▪ Letter of rejection from an optometry school</li> <li>▪ Letter on school letterhead from an optometry school admissions officer encouraging the applicant to retest</li> <li>▪ Letter on school letterhead from a college or university health profession advisor or instructor verifying that the applicant is applying to optometry school</li> </ul> <p>The results of the four most recent OAT administrations, as well as the total number of attempts, are reported on official score reports.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Partial Testing</b></p>	<p>Partial tests are not permitted. Applicants are required to take all four tests of the OAT. The lowest possible scale score is reported for any assigned test not taken. Individuals unable to complete the OAT must submit a new application and fee to retest.</p>

**TESTING INFORMATION**

<p><b>Test Centers</b></p> <p><b>Test Centers</b> (Continued)</p>	<p>The OAT is administered by Prometric at Prometric test centers in the United States and its territories, including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The OAT is also administered in Canada.</p> <p>If your application is approved, you will receive an email with scheduling instructions. You can visit <a href="http://Prometric.com">Prometric.com</a> or call 800.688.5804 to schedule a testing appointment. A list of test centers can be found at <a href="http://Prometric.com">Prometric.com</a>.</p> <p>The Prometric contact center will not schedule before receiving authorization from the OAT Program. Additionally, local test centers cannot schedule, reschedule, or cancel appointments.</p>
<p><b>Testing Schedule</b></p>	<p>The table below identifies the OAT testing schedule. The total administration time is four hours and 50 minutes, including the tutorial, scheduled break, and survey. You will have four hours and 5 minutes to respond to OAT questions. You must report to the testing center at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment.</p> <p>The optional break after the first two tests is the only scheduled break. When you take the scheduled break, the testing session will resume automatically after 15 minutes have elapsed.</p> <p><b>If you take a break at any other time, it will be considered an <u>unscheduled</u> break. During an unscheduled break, you may NOT access personal belongings or prohibited items, study, refer to notes or texts, use a telephone, eat food or beverages, or leave the test center. <u>Locker access during an unscheduled break is strictly prohibited.</u></b></p>

OAT Testing Schedule	
Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
<b>Survey of Natural Sciences</b>	<b>90 minutes</b>
<b>Reading Comprehension Test</b>	<b>60 minutes</b>
Scheduled Break (optional)	15 minutes
<b>Physics Test</b>	<b>50 minutes</b>
<b>Quantitative Reasoning Test</b>	<b>45 minutes</b>
Optional Post Test Survey	15 minutes
<b>Total Time</b>	<b>4 hours 50 minutes</b>

Before you can apply to take the OAT or apply for admission to an optometry school, you must obtain a Personal Identification



<p><b>Apply to Test</b></p>	<p>Number (PIN). You can register for a PIN at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>. If you have tested or applied before August 1, 2014, a PIN has already been assigned to you. You can retrieve your PIN and password at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>.</p> <p>The PIN is a unique personal identifier for individuals involved with the OAT Program. The OAT Program uses the PIN for identification of individuals and for the confidential and secure reporting, transmission, and tracking of test scores.</p> <p>Once you have a PIN, you may submit an OAT application at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>. <b>A new application must be submitted each time you wish to take the OAT.</b></p>
<p><b>Apply to Test</b> <i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>If you meet the eligibility requirements for testing, your application will be processed. This processing takes place Monday through Friday during normal business hours. The OAT Program will forward your eligibility information to Prometric, and you will receive an email with scheduling instructions. <u>Please wait 24 hours after receipt of this email before attempting to schedule a testing appointment</u>, to allow adequate time for Prometric to receive the eligibility information.</p> <p><b>After your application has been processed, you will be eligible to test for a six-month period. If you do not schedule a testing appointment and take the OAT during this period, you will have to submit a new application and fee in order to take the test.</b></p> <p><b><u>The six-month eligibility period will not be extended, and you will forfeit your testing fee if you do not test within the six-month period.</u></b></p> <p>All information you provide on your application must be accurate. You must use your legal name. When including a middle name, either the full middle name or initial is acceptable.</p> <p><b>If the name on your OAT application and your IDs does not match exactly, you will be denied admission to test. As a result, you will forfeit your testing appointment and application fee. You will be required to submit a new application and fee.</b></p> <p>Changes and corrections to your application (name, birthdate, etc.) must be completed at least two weeks prior to your</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Apply to Test</b> (Continued)</p>	<p>scheduled testing appointment. <u>You are responsible for identifying any corrections or omissions and must notify the OAT Program at <a href="mailto:pin@ada.org">pin@ada.org</a>.</u></p> <p>If you modify your contact information (address, email address, etc.) using the “Update Your PIN” link, please note that any existing test applications or score report requests are not automatically updated.</p> <p>During the application and testing process, you will be required to provide information that allows the OAT Program to identify you. This includes your name, PIN, address, year of birth, etc. This information must be provided accurately. <u>If it is determined that you have provided false information to the OAT Program or to the test center, your scores will be voided, and all optometry schools will be notified.</u> You could also have to wait two years to retake the test, or you could be banned from retaking the OAT.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Privacy and Security</b></p>	<p>The OAT Program uses industry standard methods to secure and protect your confidential information.</p> <p>The OAT Program collects and retains personal information for activities such as administering the OAT, fulfilling OAT Program responsibilities, maintaining the integrity of the test, detecting and preventing unlawful activity, and fulfilling legal requirements. OAT scores are retained indefinitely, along with testing records and corresponding personal data. Records of your individual results are released or reported to education programs or other entities on your written authorization or designation by electronic means, through the online application or score report request. <b>Scores will not be reported to you or others by telephone, fax, email, or in person.</b></p> <p>The OAT Program may use test data for research purposes and to enhance the testing program. In such instances, the data are confidential and individual candidates are not identified. Research of this type is reviewed by an institutional review board as appropriate.</p> <p>The OAT Program uses data security procedures to protect the integrity of personal and test information. Security safeguards include administrative, technical, and physical safeguards over data and data processing systems. For additional information, please refer to the <i>Privacy Policy</i> available on <a href="http://www.ada.org/oat">www.ada.org/oat</a>.</p>

	<p>By registering for the test, you consent to the collection, processing, use, and transmission of your personal information in accordance with the statements outlined in this <i>Guide</i>.</p>
<p><b>Schedule a Testing Appointment</b></p>	<p>After your application is processed, the OAT Program will send you an email with scheduling instructions. You may then call 800.688.5804 or visit <a href="http://Prometric.com">Prometric.com</a> to schedule your appointment to take the OAT.</p> <p>After your application is processed, Prometric will receive notification of your eligibility for OAT testing.</p> <p><b>To allow adequate time for Prometric to receive your eligibility information, please wait 24 hours after receipt of your eligibility email before attempting to schedule a testing appointment.</b></p>
<p><b>Reschedule or Cancel a Testing Appointment: Emergencies, Testing Problems, and No Show Policy</b></p>	<p>If you wish to reschedule a testing appointment, please visit <a href="http://Prometric.com">Prometric.com</a> or call 800.688.5804; additional fees apply (see the Testing Fees section of this <i>Guide</i>). The local test center cannot schedule, reschedule, or cancel your appointment. Appointments must be canceled or rescheduled by the business day prior to the test, at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled appointment.</p> <p><u>No Show Policy</u></p> <p>If you do not appear for your scheduled testing appointment and you do not cancel or reschedule your appointment in advance of the test date, you will forfeit all testing fees. <b>You will be required to submit a new application and pay the fee to schedule a new appointment.</b></p> <p><u>Emergencies on the Day of the Testing Appointment</u></p> <p>If an emergency on the day of the testing appointment prevents you from keeping your appointment, you may submit a written request for relief to the OAT Program. This request should include applicable documentation and be sent to <a href="mailto:testingproblems@ada.org">testingproblems@ada.org</a> within five business days of the appointment.</p> <p>Examples of emergencies and applicable documentation include, but are not limited to, the following:</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reschedule or Cancel a Testing Appointment: Emergencies, Testing Problems, and No Show Policy</b> (Continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden illness on the test day: Provide a doctor's note or hospital records confirming that you were treated on the day of the test.</li> <li>• Death in the family on the test day: Provide a copy of an obituary, funeral service program, or death certificate confirming that the relative passed away or services were held on the day of the test.</li> </ul> <p>Testing appointments affected by emergencies occurring prior to the day of the actual testing appointment should be handled through the rescheduling and cancellation process indicated above.</p> <p><u>Testing Problems on the Day of the Testing Appointment</u></p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>If you experience problems with testing conditions during administration of the test, you must stop testing and notify the test center administrator immediately.</b></p> <p>Testing should not be resumed until the issue has been documented and resolved by the test center administrator. Unresolved concerns must be submitted in writing <b>within five business days</b> of the testing appointment to <a href="mailto:testingproblems@ada.org">testingproblems@ada.org</a>.</p> <p>Upon receipt of the information, the OAT Program will conduct an investigation and notify you of the outcome. Candidates with documented, unresolved testing issues could be offered the opportunity to retest within 30 days. <b>Scores cannot be canceled or adjusted under any circumstances.</b></p>
<b>Testing Fees</b>	

**Fees are not refundable or transferable.** All fees are in U.S. dollars. The following indicates testing fees:

Fee Type	Description	Fee Amount
OAT Fee	This fee includes official score reporting to all of the optometry schools you have selected (limit of five) at the time of application, an unofficial score report issued at the testing center (no other copy will be sent to you), and score reporting to your pre-optometry advisor (if selected on your application).	\$450*

Score Report Fee (optional)	This fee covers score report requests for optometry schools or other recipients made after the time of application. (There is no additional charge for score report requests received at the time of application).	\$36 per score report per school
Score Audit Fee (optional)	For a period of 30 days after your testing appointment, the OAT Program is willing to audit your OAT results.	\$65
*Fee in effect from July 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018.		

### Reschedule Fee

The fee to reschedule a testing appointment is determined by the amount of notice provided. Rescheduling fees are as follows:

Number of Days Prior to Testing Appointment	Reschedule Fee
1 to 5 business days prior to the testing appointment, and at least 24 hours before the appointment is scheduled to begin.	\$100
6 to 30 business days prior to the testing appointment.	\$60
31 or more business days prior to the testing appointment.	\$25

\*\*Saturdays and Sundays are NOT business days\*\*

<b>Partial Fee Waiver</b>	<p>A limited number of partial fee waivers are available per calendar year (January-December) to OAT candidates in cases of severe financial hardship. The waiver covers 50% of the OAT fee, which includes the fee for the test and up to five official score reports requested at the time of application. The waiver does not apply to any charges associated with rescheduling or score reporting after the time of initial application.</p> <p>Fee waivers are granted on a first-come, first-served basis at the beginning of each calendar year to eligible candidates who have submitted the required documents. Fee waiver requests will be granted beginning on January 1 and are generally exhausted within two or three months.</p> <p>You can obtain additional information at <a href="http://ADA.org/OAT">ADA.org/OAT</a>. The OAT Program will review all fee waiver requests and make final decisions regarding fee waivers. Candidates must register for a PIN prior to submitting a fee waiver request.</p>
	<u><a href="#">Eligibility Requirements for Partial Fee Waiver</a></u>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Partial Fee Waiver</b> <i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>Candidates might qualify for a partial fee waiver if the following requirements are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated financial hardship</li> <li>• First time taking the OAT</li> <li>• U.S. citizen or resident alien</li> <li>• Received financial aid at his/her educational institution</li> </ul> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>Applicants who have previously received a fee waiver or who have already taken the OAT are not eligible.</b></p> <p><u>Required Documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fee waiver financial information form</li> <li>• Educational institution financial aid award letter</li> <li>• Completed OAT application (submitted after approval/denial decision)</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Testing Accommodations</b></p>	<p>The OAT Program provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for individuals with documented disabilities or a medical condition who demonstrate a need for accommodations and request accommodations prior to testing.</p> <p>An individual is considered to have a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include seeing, hearing, speaking, walking, breathing, performing manual tasks, learning, caring for oneself, and working.</p> <p>English as a second language, test anxiety, or difficulty reading without an identified underlying cognitive deficit, or failure to achieve a desired outcome are generally not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.</p> <p>Testing accommodations are offered to those with a qualified disability or a medical condition in order to offer equal access to testing. <b>Candidates must request testing accommodations with each application</b>, but will not be required to submit additional documentation for the same disability with subsequent retests. Candidates requesting the same</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Testing Accommodations</b> (Continued)</p>	<p>accommodations offered previously by the OAT Program need only submit the testing accommodations form.</p> <p>Information concerning testing accommodations will not be shared outside of the OAT Program and test center and will not be indicated on test results, reported to optometry schools, or provided to additional recipients.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Request for Testing Accommodations and Appropriate Documentation</b></p>	<p>The following documentation will be used to help determine whether you qualify for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or whether you qualify for accommodations as a result of a medical condition.</p> <p>The OAT Program requires a complete evaluation of the candidate, as well as a completed and signed <a href="#">Testing Accommodations Request Form</a>, available under “Apply to Take the OAT” on ADA.org/OAT. A health care professional appropriately qualified to evaluate the disability or medical condition must conduct the evaluation.</p> <p>If you have a documented disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require testing accommodations, you must submit an application to test, the Testing Accommodations Request Form, <b>and</b> the supporting documentation prior to testing. <u>Your submission is not complete until you have provided all three components.</u></p> <p>Schedule a testing appointment <b>after</b> a decision has been made concerning your testing accommodation request. <u>Testing accommodations cannot be added to a previously scheduled testing appointment.</u> If you schedule a testing appointment before the approval of testing accommodations, you will be required to <b>cancel the appointment and pay a rescheduling fee.</b></p> <p>Procedures for submitting a testing accommodations request are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select “Yes” from the dropdown box on the OAT application requesting testing accommodations. You must receive your eligibility email (with approved accommodations) before you can schedule a testing</li> </ol>

**Request for Testing  
Accommodations and  
Appropriate  
Documentation**  
*(Continued)*

appointment. You must submit an application for the examination, the Test Accommodations Request Form, and the supporting documentation prior to testing.

2. Submit the following documents to [testingaccommodations@ada.org](mailto:testingaccommodations@ada.org):

a. [Testing Accommodations Request Form](#), which can be found on the OAT page of the [ADA.org/OAT](http://ADA.org/OAT) website. It must be signed and dated, and indicate the disability or medical condition and the request for accommodations.

Accommodations should align with the identified functional limitation so that the adjustment to the testing procedure is applicable to the identified impairment. A functional limitation is defined as the behavioral manifestation of the disability that impedes the individual's ability to function.

b. **Current evaluation report** (within the past five years) from an appropriate health care professional. The document must be on official letterhead and must include the professional's credentials, signature, address, and telephone number. The report must indicate the candidate's name, date of birth, and the date of evaluation. The report should include:

- information concerning the specific **diagnostic procedures or tests** administered. Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability or medical condition and in alignment with current professional protocol.
- the **results of the diagnostic procedures** and tests and a comprehensive interpretation of the results.
- the specific **diagnosis of the disability or medical condition**, with an accompanying description of the candidate's limitations due



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Request for Testing Accommodations and Appropriate Documentation</b> <i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>to the disability or medical condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a summary of the complete evaluation with <b>recommendations for the specific accommodations</b> and how they will reduce the impact of the identified functional limitation.</li> </ul> <p>c. <b>Documentation of any previous accommodations</b> provided by educational institutions or other testing agencies. If no prior accommodations were provided, the health care professional should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why accommodations are needed now.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unacceptable Forms of Documentation</b></p>	<p>Please do not submit the following documents; they will not be accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handwritten letters from health care professionals</li> <li>• Handwritten patient records/notes from a patient chart</li> <li>• Diagnoses on prescription pad</li> <li>• Self-evaluations</li> <li>• Research articles</li> <li>• Original documents; submit copies only</li> <li>• Previous OAT Program correspondence</li> <li>• Correspondence from educational institutions or testing agencies not directly addressed to the OAT Program</li> </ul>

**TEST REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>About the Testing Rules</b></p>	<p>The OAT Program has established rules that govern the administration of the OAT to ensure that examination results accurately reflect candidates' skills and that no candidate receives an unfair advantage on the test.</p> <p>Test Regulations and Rules of Conduct are intended to preserve the integrity of the testing process by providing standard test administration conditions that yield valid and reliable results.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>About the Testing Rules</b> <i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>Accessing test content prior to testing, breaching the confidentiality of the test content, or any attempt to subvert the testing process violates the purpose and principles of the test. Conduct occurring before, during, or after testing that violates these principles, or the Test Regulations and Rules of Conduct could result in invalidation of test results or other penalties, as appropriate.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rules of Conduct</b></p>	<p>You must be truthful in completing your application and must abide by all instructions regarding testing conduct.</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>Failure to comply with these Test Regulations and Rules of Conduct could result in a determination that an irregularity has occurred, and your test results may be withheld, canceled, or considered invalid. If your scores are withheld as the result of an irregularity, you could be prohibited from testing for up to two years and you could be subject to civil or criminal prosecution.</b></p> <p>By applying for the OAT, you agree to abide by the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You certify that you are the person who has registered for the test for the purpose of gaining admission to optometry school or another health profession education program. You may not take the test for someone else, someone else may not take the test for you, nor may you take the test for any reason other than for the purpose of gaining admission to an optometry or health profession education program. <b>You may not take the test to practice or to obtain an advance review of test content.</b> You will not give, receive, or obtain any form of unauthorized assistance prior to the test, during the test (e.g. in the testing room or when on a break), or subsequent to the test.</li> <li>2. You will maintain the confidentiality of the test at all times. You will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce test materials through memorization, recording, or other means. You will not provide information relating to test content that might impact the test’s ability to accurately reflect candidate skills, or that might provide an unfair advantage to other candidates. For example, <u>you will neither make use of nor participate in the electronic posting or other distribution of information regarding test content or answers.</u></li> </ol>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rules of Conduct</b> (Continued)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. You will not bring any unauthorized materials to the test center, or into the secure testing area (see the Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct section of this Guide).</li> <li>4. You will not remove information about the test (written, printed, recorded, or other) from the test center.</li> <li>5. You will comply with test center rules and procedures. You will not create a disturbance in the testing center.</li> <li>6. You will not tamper with the testing equipment or the testing facility.</li> <li>7. You will cooperate fully with any investigations of test irregularities. You also agree to have your test responses analyzed to detect aberrances.</li> </ol> <p style="background-color: red; color: black; padding: 5px;"><b>You may not disclose (in whole or in part) test content to anyone before, during, or after the test, whether orally, in writing, on internet chat rooms, blogs, or otherwise.</b></p> <p>The OAT is a secure test protected by U.S. copyright laws. Any unauthorized disclosure of test contents could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, voiding of test scores, or other appropriate penalty.</p> <p>You are encouraged to report any internet or other activities that disclose information about test content, so that the OAT Program can investigate and take necessary action. Report such activity to the OAT Program at <a href="mailto:testsecurity@ada.org">testsecurity@ada.org</a>.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Test Center Procedures</b></p>	<p>Report to the test center at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time. If you report late, you might not be allowed to test, depending on the time of your arrival and the scheduling of other testing appointments. Prometric test center administrators will determine whether there is adequate time and space to administer the test. <u>If you arrive late and cannot be seated, you will forfeit the test fee and must submit another application and fee.</u></p> <p>In cases of inclement weather, natural disasters, or other conditions that could cause unavoidable interruptions to testing, Prometric will make reasonable efforts to notify you and reschedule your testing appointment.</p> <p>You are expected to understand and comply with the Prometric test center regulations. You can review test center information at <a href="http://Prometric.com">Prometric.com</a>.</p>

**Test Center  
Procedures**  
(Continued)

- 1. When you arrive at the Prometric test center to take the test, two original, current (not expired) forms of identification (ID), one primary and one secondary, will be required.**

The primary ID must be a government-issued ID with your photograph and signature. A government ID missing either a photograph or signature is unacceptable. Examples of acceptable primary IDs are a driver's license, a passport, or passport card.

The secondary ID must contain your signature. Examples of secondary IDs are a debit card, a library card, or a credit card.

**The name on your IDs must match exactly the name you entered on your OAT application. If the names on your IDs and application do not match exactly, you will be denied admission to testing, and you will forfeit your testing appointment and your application fee. You will be required to submit a new application and fee to test.**

If including a middle name, either the full middle name or initial is acceptable.

If you have a name change, complete the [PIN Request Form](#), available at [ADA.org/OAT](#) and email the request to [pin@ada.org](mailto:pin@ada.org) with appropriate documentation, such as a marriage certificate or court documents. Your request and the required documentation must be received five business days before your testing appointment. If your name is reversed, please send a copy of your government-issued ID only.

**If you have any questions concerning types of acceptable identification, please call the OAT Program at 800.232.1694.**

2. The Prometric test center will electronically record the identity of each candidate with a fingerprint and photograph before candidates can proceed with testing. This biometric data, which will be retained for future test administrations, allows candidates to return to the testing area more quickly after breaks. Biometric and other identification information will be retained by Prometric and will be made available for identity verification at potential future test administrations

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Test Center Procedures</b> (Continued)</p>	<p>related to optometry education.</p> <p>Additionally, the test center will visually inspect eyeglasses and hair accessories for cameras as part of the check-in procedures. It may use a detection wand to scan for electronic devices as part of the check-in procedures. Jewelry, except for wedding and engagement rings, is prohibited. You can view the Prometric check-in procedures at <a href="http://Prometric.com">Prometric.com</a>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. You will have an opportunity to become familiar with the operation of the testing computer by taking a brief tutorial before the test.</li> <li>4. You will be observed at all times while testing. This observation will include test center staff walking through the secure testing lab, and video recording of your testing session. Test center staff are required to report behavior that could be in violation of the rules and regulations.</li> <li>5. Test center staff are not authorized to answer questions regarding test content, testing software, or scoring.</li> <li>6. The test administrator is responsible for the operations of the facility, maintaining order, and administering the test according to established procedures. The test center administrator is authorized to dismiss a candidate from a test session for violating the rules and or regulations.</li> <li>7. If you experience problems with testing conditions, you must notify the test administrator immediately; <b><u>do not proceed with testing unless the problem is resolved.</u></b> Unresolved concerns should be reported to <a href="mailto:testingproblems@ada.org">testingproblems@ada.org</a> <b>within five business days</b> of your testing appointment.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct</b></p>	<p>The Test Regulations are in place to ensure that results can be interpreted with confidence as an accurate reflection of candidates' skills. This is particularly important given the role of the test in helping to understand the cognitive skills and aptitude of individuals seeking to become health professionals. Violations of the Test Regulations undermine the ability of the test to accurately assess candidate skills and fulfill the purpose of the test. As such, the OAT Program treats violations extremely seriously.</p>

**Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct**

*(Continued)*

You must comply with Test Regulations, Rules of Conduct, and test center procedures. These preserve the integrity of the testing process and provide standardized conditions that ensure that no candidate receives an unfair advantage on the test.

**It is your personal responsibility to understand and comply with the Test Regulations indicated in this Guide.**

Test administrators at test center facilities work with a large number of testing programs covering many fields and occupations. Each of those programs has adopted its own test regulations and corresponding rules of conduct. If you are unsure of what would be considered appropriate and inappropriate (i.e., prohibited) conduct during test administration, seek clarification directly from the OAT Program in advance of testing. **The OAT Program bears no responsibility for inaccurate information or permissions received from test center administrators. If candidate conduct violates the terms set forth in this Guide, the OAT Program will act to strictly enforce its policies and procedures as indicated within this *Guide*.**

1. No personal items are permitted in the secure testing area. Any personal belongings brought to the test center must be stored in the designated locker; storage is limited. Personal belongings might be inspected. Notes or any materials accessed during testing or an unscheduled break could be confiscated.

**Accessing personal belongings or your locker during an unscheduled break violates Test Regulations. Test administrators are not authorized to provide you with permission to access personal belongings or your locker during an unscheduled break.**

2. Items that are prohibited from the secure testing area include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Books, notes, study materials, scratch paper, tissues, markers, earplugs, and headphones not provided by the testing center

**Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct**

*(Continued)*

- b. Slide rules, paper, calculating devices, and rulers or other measuring devices (an onscreen calculator will be provided during the Quantitative Reasoning section of the test)
  - c. Electronic devices such as cell phones, recording devices, iPods, tablets, headsets, and headphones
  - d. Tote bags, purses, wallets, backpacks, and briefcases
  - e. Highlighters, pens, erasers, pencils, dictionaries, and translators
  - f. Food, candy, gum, and beverages
  - g. Outerwear, such as coats, jackets, gloves, and head coverings (except for religious purposes)
  - h. Good luck charms, statues, religious or spiritual items, and similar objects
  - i. Medicinal items (except as approved in advance under testing accommodations)
  - j. Watches (digital or analog) and timing devices (a timer is provided on the computer screen during testing)
  - k. Magnifying devices
  - l. Jewelry (except for wedding and engagement rings)
3. The test center will provide two note boards and two low-odor fine tip markers to use during the test. Used note boards will be replaced by test center staff upon request. Scratch paper, pencils, or markers that have not been provided by the testing center are prohibited. You may not write on the note boards before the test begins or during scheduled breaks. The note boards should not be used as measuring devices and should not be folded, bent, distorted, or mutilated in any manner. You may not remove the note boards from the secure testing area. You may not use the markers on any surface other than the note boards. You may not touch the monitor during testing. All items must be returned to the test administrator before leaving.
4. You must not engage in conversation with others during testing or while on an unscheduled break, and you are strictly prohibited from discussing the test.

**Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct**  
(Continued)

5. Test center administrators will report the activity of candidates who take unscheduled breaks.

**During an unscheduled break, you may NOT access personal belongings or prohibited items, study, refer to notes or texts, use a telephone, eat food or beverages, or leave the test center. Test administrators are not authorized to provide you with permission to engage in these activities.**

6. Although the test is administered under strict supervision and security, test irregularities sometimes occur. Test scores can be voided based upon a breach of test security, invalid test conditions, or test taker violations of the Test Regulations or Rules of Conduct.

If cheating is detected during the test—or evidence of irregular behavior is disclosed either when the tests are scored or afterwards—those involved could have their test scores voided.

If you think you might require any medicinal items during the testing session (e.g., aspirin, ibuprofen), you must receive permission from the OAT Program in advance of the testing session. This permission is obtained through adherence to the OAT Program's testing accommodations procedures.

**Failure to comply with the Test Regulations, Rules of Conduct, and test center procedures could result in a determination of an irregularity and your test results could be withheld, canceled, or considered invalid, or another appropriate penalty might be imposed. You could also be directed to leave the test center before you have completed the test. If your scores are withheld or invalidated, or you are otherwise penalized as the result of an irregularity, you could be prohibited from testing for up to two years.**



## TESTING IRREGULARITIES AND MISCONDUCT

The OAT Program strives to report scores that accurately reflect the skill and performance of each candidate. The standards and procedures for administering each test are intended to give each candidate a comparable opportunity to demonstrate his or her abilities, and to prevent any candidate from gaining an unfair advantage over others.

### **Reasons for Withholding, Voiding, or Invalidating Scores**

The OAT Program reserves the right to withhold, void, or invalidate any score when, in the Program's judgment, it is reasonable to question the validity of the score. Reasons for withholding, voiding, or invalidating scores include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Unusual answer patterns
- Atypical score increases from one testing attempt to another
- Discrepancy in, or falsification of, a candidate's identification
- Information indicating that a candidate has engaged in misconduct or violation of the rules and regulations
- Sharing of remembered test questions or answers. This includes sharing through social media platforms and online discussion forums
- Falsification of application information or supporting documents
- Falsification of the candidate's score report
- Improper access to secure test content
- Inconsistent performance on different sections of the test from one testing attempt to another
- Indication of a test administration irregularity
- Taking a test on behalf of another individual, or having another individual take a test on your behalf
- Any other information indicating the results might not be valid

<p><b>Candidate Notification and Appeal Process</b></p>	<p>When the OAT Program voids or invalidates test scores, it notifies the candidate in writing. The notice includes information about the decision and procedure for appeal. Scores will remain voided until an appeal process has been completed, or the time for appeal has expired.</p> <p>When the OAT Program voids a score that has already been reported, score report recipients will be notified that the candidate's score has been voided.</p>
<p><b>Consequence of Irregularity</b></p>	<p>If it is determined a test taker has engaged in irregular behavior, information regarding this determination becomes a part of the candidate's OAT record. At its sole discretion, the OAT Program might elect to send a summary report documenting the incident to legitimately interested parties. This would include all parties to whom you have instructed scores be sent (both currently and in the future).</p> <p>In situations where an irregularity has occurred, individuals who are involved or implicated with respect to the occurrence of the irregularity, or who are reasonably believed to have witnessed the irregularity, could be asked and may be required to provide information concerning the irregularity.</p> <p>The OAT Program reserves the right to pursue other remedies, including prosecution of anyone whose conduct unlawfully undermines the security of the OAT or the integrity of the testing process.</p>
<p><b>Irregularities and Appeals</b></p>	<p>An irregularity is defined as a situation in which there is a question about the validity of test results in accurately reflecting the ability and skills of a candidate.</p> <p>For example, such questions could be raised when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is communication between candidates during the testing session.</li> <li>• unauthorized assistance occurs.</li> <li>• candidates have inappropriate access to current test content (e.g. remembered test questions or answers are shared by email or online posting).</li> <li>• conduct prohibited by the Test Regulations and Rules of Conduct occurs, or test administration disruptions are present, including natural disasters and other emergencies.</li> </ul> <p>When an irregularity is identified, scores for the candidate(s)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Irregularities and Appeals</b> (Continued)</p>	<p>involved will be voided pending resolution of the corresponding appeal(s). If an appeal is denied or no appeal is filed, the scores of the candidate(s) involved will be voided or other appropriate remedies imposed.</p> <p>Candidates whose scores are subject to being voided are notified by written correspondence and provided with a copy of the <i>Optometry Admission Test Appeal Process</i>. An appeal must be submitted in writing and must include adequate documentation that supports the appeal. The appeal should include documentation that the candidate believes supports his or her appeal. The appeal should also indicate the specific relief requested. Appeals must be submitted within 30 days of notification of the irregularity.</p> <p>The candidate will be notified of the OAT Program's decision approximately 60 days after receipt of the appeal.</p> <p>When considering an appeal, the OAT Program strives to ensure that examination results accurately reflect candidates' skills, and that all candidates have an opportunity to demonstrate their ability and potential for success in optometry school that is equal to, but not greater than, the opportunity provided to other candidates.</p>
	<p>The OAT Program will void scores when there is a reasonable and good faith basis to do so. If the OAT Program determines that voiding scores is not warranted under the circumstances, the scores will be released.</p> <p>The OAT Program considers irregularities other than natural disasters and emergencies beyond the control of the candidate to be a serious breach of the agreement the candidate enters into by applying for and taking the test.</p> <p>The OAT Program handles irregularities in a confidential manner and does not voluntarily share details regarding irregularities.</p> <p>However, candidates should be aware that reports of irregularities can have consequences beyond the voiding of scores or the imposition of other appropriate penalties, if information regarding the irregularities is brought to the attention of school authorities, regulatory agencies, or other entities by other sources.</p> <p>Candidates are encouraged to report suspicious activity or</p>

	observations of violations of Test Regulations to the OAT Program at <a href="mailto:testsecurity@ada.org">testsecurity@ada.org</a> .
<b>Arbitration Requirement</b>	Arbitration has become an increasingly common way to resolve legal differences. Generally speaking, the advantages of arbitration over traditional lawsuits are that arbitration is less expensive and issues are resolved in less time. If a candidate wishes to pursue a dispute that has not been resolved by the appeal process mentioned above and detailed in the <i>OAT Program Appeal Process</i> , the candidate must use the procedure described in the following Agreement to Arbitrate.

### AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE

- 1) In the event that any legal dispute arises between you and the Optometry Admission Testing Program in connection with your participation in the Optometry Admission Test where that dispute is not resolved by the appeals process detailed in the *OAT Guide* and elsewhere, you agree that the exclusive means for resolving the dispute shall be Binding Arbitration as described by the terms of this Agreement. This means that you waive the rights you may have to resolve the dispute in a court of law, or by any other means that might otherwise be available to you.
- 2) The OAT Program agrees to be similarly bound except that the OAT Program reserves its full rights to pursue injunctive and other appropriate relief in any state or federal court in cases of unfair competition or violations of, or threats to violate, any intellectual property rights of the OAT Program. With respect to any action filed by the OAT Program pursuant to this paragraph 2, you consent to submit to the jurisdiction of the state or federal court in which the OAT Program seeks relief.
- 3) Arbitration proceedings initiated pursuant to this Agreement to Arbitrate shall be conducted in accordance with the then current rules of the American Arbitration Association. The Arbitration and any proceedings relating to it shall be held in Chicago, Illinois. The arbitrator's award shall be binding and may be entered as a judgment in any court of competent jurisdiction. Information about the American Arbitration Association, its rules, and its forms are available from the American Arbitration Association, 335 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10017-4605.
- 4) In the event of the Arbitration, the parties shall bear their own costs and attorneys' fees associated with the Arbitration proceedings, unless the arbitrator directs one of the parties to pay the other's costs, or attorneys' fees, or both.
- 5) To the fullest extent permitted by law, no Arbitration brought pursuant to this Agreement shall be joined to any Arbitration involving any party whether through "Class Arbitration" proceedings or otherwise.
- 6) This Agreement is *part* of the Application to take the Optometry Admission Test. Your assent to be bound by it is a requirement for taking the test, but you can only sit for the test if you also fulfill all other conditions imposed by the OAT Program.