



COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS  
OF ALBERTA

## Sample Learning Plan – NACOR Pilot Tests 2022

Competency: Educates and Advocates Effectively

Performance: Moderate

### My Goal:

To improve my understanding of how international opticians and alternatively trained professionals are assisted as they determine if their training and/or experience may be considered substantially equivalent to a candidate for registration that received their education from an accredited training program for the profession in Canada. I will assist in the development of self-assessment tools to support the introduction of applicants to the profession of opticianry in Canada so I may better educate fellow opticians and the public on this topic, by January 2021.

Specifically addressing competency:

3.1.1 Advocating for the profession to by demonstrating awareness of self-regulation and the role of professional associations, and  
3.7.2 Perform in a leadership role in the eye care team by advocating for, and adapting to, change to support competent, ethical, and patient/client-centered care.

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### My Action Plan

ADD ACTIVITY/COURSE

*In order to achieve a goal, an action plan needs to be in place, and then updated as you make progress:*

- Click the icon below to enter (or edit) the description or details of your plan.
- Also click the button on the right to add activities into your plan. Add as many activities as you need to achieve your goal.
- Once you have added an activity, you may click the icon that appears next to it to edit it, mark it as "Completed" (once you have done so), or upload any document related to that activity.



Description:

I will assist my provincial and national regulatory bodies in the development of self-assessment tools to support the evaluation of international or alternatively trained applicants to the profession of opticianry in Canada.

Activity/Course:  Venue:

Start:  End:  Activity Completed:  Documents:

Anticipated Completion:



Reflection Notes:

This was the self assessment that evaluated knowledge of many of the national competencies for opticians. Taking this assessment helped me understand how internationally or alternatively trained opticians can determine if their knowledge is comparable to a graduate from an accredited Canadian program. I found this assessment to be more challenging than I expected which I think is good because it would ensure candidates understand the level of education our regulatory bodies require.

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## My Reflection

[EDIT MY REFLECTION](#)

*After completing the activities in your plan, you will reflect on your learning and how it contributed to the achievement of your goal. Click the button on the right to summarize your experience and reflect on your learning.*

Testing this online self assessment for NACOR helped me understand how international or alternatively trained applicants are aided in evaluating their readiness to apply for registration in Canada. It made me feel confident that patients in Canada can expect safe, competent care from their optician whether they were educated in Canada or are required to prove substantial equivalence. This self-assessment is just the first step for these candidates to evaluate their competence in relation to national competencies for opticians. After taking these assessments, I believe candidates would have a good idea if they are prepared to apply for registration by proving substantial equivalence or if they need to seek additional education or training before taking on that process.

I really liked participating in this higher level to better understand my profession and how I can help influence strengthening the profession throughout Canada. The learning I received from this experience will also allow me to better explain the evaluation process to my co-workers and the public, so others will also have the confidence in knowing that a good evaluation process is in place when Canadian regulators license international or alternatively trained applicants. In the future I would seek opportunities like this with my provincial regulator so that I can focus my understanding and advocacy in my own province.

[GOAL COMPLETED](#)