

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

### Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

<b>1. Type of Estimate and Analysis</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Updated <input type="checkbox"/> Corrected	<b>2. Date</b> September 20, 2024								
<b>3. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number (and Clearinghouse Number if applicable)</b> Opt 8- Continuing Education									
<b>4. Subject</b> Continuing Education Course Format Definitions and Requirements									
<b>5. Fund Sources Affected</b> <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEG-S	<b>6. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected</b> 20.165(1)(g)								
<b>7. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule</b> <table style="width: 100%;"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> No Fiscal Effect</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues</td><td colspan="2"><input type="checkbox"/> Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget</td></tr></table>		<input type="checkbox"/> No Fiscal Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget	
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<b>8. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply)</b> <table style="width: 100%;"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> State's Economy</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Specific Businesses/Sectors</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Units</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility Rate Payers</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"><input type="checkbox"/> Small Businesses <b>(if checked, complete Attachment A)</b></td></tr></table>		<input type="checkbox"/> State's Economy	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Businesses/Sectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Units	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility Rate Payers	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Businesses <b>(if checked, complete Attachment A)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> State's Economy	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Businesses/Sectors								
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<b>9. Estimate of Implementation and Compliance to Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(1).</b> \$0									
<b>10. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals Be \$10 Million or more Over Any 2-year Period, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(2)?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No									
<b>11. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule</b> The proposed rule clarifies the number of continuing education hours and instructional format required to renew an optometry license according to the updated standards adopted by the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) and the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE). The rule sets hour requirements for in person, synchronous virtual, and asynchronous continuing education hours required to renew an optometry license. COPE has updated definitions of synchronous and asynchronous course formats and hours to align with modern education terminology and provided new definitions to guide state regulatory boards.									
<b>12. Summary of the Businesses, Business Sectors, Associations Representing Business, Local Governmental Units, and Individuals that may be Affected by the Proposed Rule that were Contacted for Comments.</b> The rule will be posted to the public for Economic Impact Analysis comments as required, and will be subject to an official public hearing, along with other steps of the rule process.									
<b>13. Identify the Local Governmental Units that Participated in the Development of this EIA.</b> None.									
<b>14. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)</b> DSPS estimates a total of 5,355.00 in one-time costs for implementing this rule. The rule time staff costs support 0.1 limited term employee to undertake such tasks as rulemaking, legal review, assisting with renewal of application forms, updating requirements in LicensE and training.									
<b>15. Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule</b> The benefit of this rule is that regulations on continuing education for optometrists in Wisconsin will be modernized and will align more closely with those recommended by ARBO and COPE. More specifically, the approved course formats will have clear definitions and clear hour requirements. It will create clarity for stakeholders as to what the requirements are. The rule also decreases the required number of in person continuing education hours from 20 to 10. If the rule does not go forward, requirements around continuing education for optometrists will remain unclear and out of date.									

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#### 16. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

The long range implication of implementing the rule is that regulations on continuing education for optometrists in Wisconsin will be modernized and will align more closely with those recommended by national optometry associations.

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#### 17. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

None.

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#### 18. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

Illinois:

Rules of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation establish continuing education (CE) requirements for optometrists licensed in Illinois [68 Ill. Adm. Code 1320.80]. Illinois has recently updated their code to allow different course formats. Out of a total of 30 required CE hours per renewal cycle, at least 12 hours must be in person and up to 18 hours may be “completed online through live, real-time presentations or by pre-recorded video”. In other words, these are essentially the in person, synchronous virtual, and asynchronous course formats defined by COPE.

Iowa:

Rules of the Iowa Board of Optometry establish continuing education requirements for optometrists licensed in Iowa [645 IAC 181.1 – 181.3]. Iowa has not yet included the new COPE course format definitions within these rules. However, it only allows a maximum of 10 CE hours per renewal cycle to be virtual for both of their credential levels (30 hours total and 50 hours total required).

Michigan:

Rules of the Michigan Board of Optometry establish continuing education requirements for optometrists licensed in Michigan [Mich Admin Code, R 338.331 to R 338.333]. They require a total of 40 CE hours per renewal cycle. The only provision that covers the topic of in person versus virtual CE is the following: “A minimum of 20 of the required continuing education hours must be completed in a live, synchronous learning format. The remaining hours may be completed in any other format” [R 338.331 (4)]. Since it does not specify that courses must be in person, and since “live, synchronous” fits the COPE definition of a synchronous virtual course, it is presumed to mean that at least 20 hours must be either in person courses or synchronous virtual courses. In this case, all of a licensee’s CE hours may be virtual.

Minnesota:

Rules of the Minnesota Board of Optometry establish continuing education requirements for optometrists licensed in Minnesota [Minnesota Rules, Chapter 6500.3000]. They require a total of 40 CE hours per renewal cycle. At least 25 hours must be course formats of in person or virtual synchronous. A maximum of 15 hours may be asynchronous. In this case, all of a licensee’s CE hours may be virtual.

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#### 19. Contact Name

Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator

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#### 20. Contact Phone Number

(608) 267-0989

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**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
**Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis**

**ATTACHMENT A**

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1. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Small Businesses (Separately for each Small Business Sector, Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

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2. Summary of the data sources used to measure the Rule's impact on Small Businesses

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3. Did the agency consider the following methods to reduce the impact of the Rule on Small Businesses?

- ☐ Less Stringent Compliance or Reporting Requirements  
☐ Less Stringent Schedules or Deadlines for Compliance or Reporting  
☐ Consolidation or Simplification of Reporting Requirements  
☐ Establishment of performance standards in lieu of Design or Operational Standards  
☐ Exemption of Small Businesses from some or all requirements  
☐ Other, describe:

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4. Describe the methods incorporated into the Rule that will reduce its impact on Small Businesses

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5. Describe the Rule's Enforcement Provisions

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6. Did the Agency prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis (if Yes, attach to form)

☐ Yes    ☐ No

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