



Anterior Segment Section Diplomate Candidate Guide

Becoming a Diplomate of the American Academy of Optometry is a distinction achieved by Doctor of Optometry who strive to attain a level of excellence beyond the American Academy of Optometry Fellowship program. The Anterior Segment Section invites Academy Fellows with an interest in Anterior Segment to become a candidate for Diplomate in Anterior Segment.

Becoming an Anterior Segment Diplomate of the American Academy of Optometry is a multistep process. To start: Complete the online application

- i. <https://diplomate.aaopt.org/Fellow>
- ii. Upload a copy of your Curriculum Vitae
- iii. Complete the proposed plan for written requirements and forward them to the Diplomate Chair
- iv. Once approved from the Chair, you will need to pay the \$100 application fee

CLINICAL CANDIDATES

Clinical candidates are optometrists who are licensed to practice at the highest level permitted by law in their jurisdiction and are **engaged in active clinical practice**.

To become a Diplomate in Anterior Segment, a minimum of 5, maximum of 7 case reports are required. A mandatory case report for each subject area, one on Infection and one on Inflammation should be submitted. The remainder of submitted cases can be from any of the 6 subject areas but should cover a variety of topics or presentations of disease.

Mandatory Cases: (Minimum 1 case for each area)

1. Infection
2. Inflammation

Other areas:

3. Trauma (e.g.: chemical, foreign body, blunt force, etc.)
4. Surgical management or co-management
5. Neurologic (eg: ptosis, pupil abnormalities, etc.)
6. Miscellaneous (e.g.: genetic, infestations, tumors, cysts, complications due to systemic disease, et

CASE REPORTS

The purpose of written case reports is to demonstrate one's commitment to the Academy's goal of lifelong learning. Case reports should display technical skills and knowledge, level of professionalism and ability to care for the patients. You may not submit any case report about a patient you used for your Fellowship, or before becoming a Fellow. For more information see the guidelines for preparing a case report prior to submitting any case report. Redundancy in general subject matter topics will be discouraged. Your cases should encompass a wide scope of anterior segment diseases. Further, it is expected that cases will follow conventional "in text" citations which link back to an end of case

bibliography. Any cases not following this format will not be reviewed.

At least five case reports are required for all clinical candidates. All written work (including posters / papers, articles, lectures, etc.) must have been completed and presented prior to the June 1st deadline to sit that same calendar year.

Credit for up to two case reports can be given with documentation of the following, as long as the topic area is anterior segment related, and is work that the applicant has done after receiving Fellowship in the Academy:

- A. A case report or research paper accepted to a peer-reviewed journal.
Turn in copy of paper and citation for journal. See listing of journals accepted for fellowship work for sample of acceptable publications. The candidate must be the first or second author and be prepared to talk about the paper at the oral examination. This must be submitted as a PDF or Word file via the Academy portal after approval by the chair.
- B. Two posters / papers accepted to the Academy meeting (two posters / papers give credit for one case report).
Turn in copies of posters / paper, and at which meeting it was presented. Candidate must be first or second author on the poster / paper and be prepared to talk about the poster / paper at the oral examination. These must be submitted via the Academy portal as PDF files after approval by the chair.
- C. A lecture (1- or 2-hour) accepted to the Academy meeting.
Turn in abstract, outline, and at which meeting it was presented. Candidate must be the only lecturer for a one-hour course, or can have two lecturers for a two-hour course, and be prepared to talk about the lecture at the oral examination. The topic must pertain to Anterior Segment disease. The course handout should be submitted via the Academy portal as a PDF file after being accepted by the chair.
- D. Contribution to Optometric Books- Chapter authorship in Optometric or Ophthalmologic texts in topics related to anterior segment disease may be accepted in lieu of a case. The chapter should be submitted via the Academy portal as a Word Document after being approved by the chair.

The Diplomate Chair will make the final decision as to whether the subject of submitted materials qualifies as anterior segment related for credit towards the case report requirement.

Redundancy in cases will not be allowed. That is, if a case is used in a chapter, journal article, poster or lecture, it cannot be re-used as a separate Case Report.

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

An article may be accepted in lieu of a case report if it was published in one of the following peer reviewed journals:

<i>Acta Ophthalmologica</i>	<i>Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology</i>
<i>American Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Journal of Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics</i>
<i>Annals of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus</i>
<i>Archives of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Journal of Refractive Surgery</i>
<i>Arquivos Brasileiros de Oftalmologia</i>	<i>Journal of Vision</i>
<i>BMC Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Klin Monatsbl Augenheilkd</i>
<i>British Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Molecular Vision</i>
<i>Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Neuro-Ophthalmology</i>
<i>Canadian Journal of Optometry</i>	<i>Ocular Immunology and Inflammation</i>
<i>Clinical & Experimental Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Ocular Surface</i>
<i>Clinical and Experimental Optometry</i>	<i>Ophthalmic and Physiologic Optics</i>
<i>Contact Lens and Anterior Eye</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Epidemiology</i>
<i>Cornea</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Genetics</i>
<i>Current Eye Research</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery</i>
<i>Current Opinion in Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Research</i>
<i>Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers & Imaging</i>
<i>Documenta Ophthalmologica</i>	<i>Ophthalmologe</i>
<i>European Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Ophthalmologica</i>
<i>Experimental Eye Research</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>
<i>Eye</i>	<i>Optometric Education</i>
<i>Eye & Contact Lens</i>	<i>Optometry</i>
<i>French Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Optometry & Vision Development</i>
<i>Gerontologist</i>	<i>Optometry and Vision Science</i>
<i>Graefes Archive for Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Optometry & Visual Performance</i>
<i>Indian Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Progress in Retina and Eye Research</i>
<i>International Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Retina, the Journal of Retinal and Vitreous Diseases</i>
<i>Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science</i>	<i>Review of Optometry*</i>
<i>Iranian Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Revista Brasileira de Oftalmologia</i>
<i>Japanese Journal of Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Spektrum Augenheilkd</i>
<i>Journal of AAPOS</i>	<i>Survey of Ophthalmology</i>
<i>Journal of American Geriatrics Society</i>	<i>Vision Research</i>
<i>Journal of Behavioral Optometry</i>	<i>Visual Neuroscience</i>
<i>Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery</i>	<i>Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology</i>
<i>Journal of Glaucoma</i>	<i>Vision Development and Rehabilitation</i>

When multiple authored published articles are submitted for credit, the article will only be considered if the candidate appears as the **first or second author**. If the article is **over ten years old**, it may be acceptable, but a brief paper describing what changes have taken place on the topic since it was published must also be presented.

All articles submitted in lieu of cases must be in the field of anterior segment disease and any submitted from *Review of Optometry* specifically will have to meet a minimum standard of quality. Not all Review of Optometry columns will be accepted; articles from this publication must be Continuing Education articles.

POSTERS AND PAPERS

Two **clinical case report posters or papers** written **after** attainment of Fellowship will be considered in lieu of one case report. These posters must pertain primarily to anterior segment disease.

A poster or paper may be accepted if it was presented at a peer-reviewed meeting from which the content is archived and citable, and as approved by the Academy's Inter-Professional Scientific Review Committee and the Diplomate Chair.

The following organizations/meetings listed below who have successfully completed the review process. Please note that the Diplomate Chair will still review each document submitted for final approval of points.

- American Academy of Optometry (AAO)
- Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
- American Optometric Association (AOA)
- Only able to accept from 2012 and forward:*
- Global Specialty Lens Symposium (GSLs)
- Only able to accept from 2014 and forward:*
- College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD)

Posters and papers must be presented at an approved venue prior to granting credit towards a case report for Diplomate, e.g. A Candidate cannot use a poster/paper being presented at the same Academy meeting where he/she is sitting for the oral exam.

When a multiple authored poster or paper is submitted for credit, it will only be considered if the candidate appears as the **first or second author**. A poster or paper over ten years old may not be accepted.

The Diplomate Chair will make the decision if a submitted article meets the standards outlined above.

An electronic copy of the paper and/or poster will be required.

ACADEMY LECTURE

A unique lecture given within the past ten years at an Annual or International meeting of the Academy may be accepted if:

- a. Candidate was sole presenter of a one-hour lecture.
- b. Candidate presented for at least one hour of a two-hour lecture.

Documentation of successful completion of the lecture with dates and location must be provided along with a description of the lecture.

PROFESSIONALLY RELATED BOOK

A book published by the candidate in one or more of the following or **similar** types of professionally related books, may be considered in lieu of a case report: *Applied Science, Optometric Education, Optometric Management, Clinical Optometry* or other. These chapters should pertain specifically to anterior segment disease.

When multiple authored published books are submitted for credit, an explanation of the candidate's role in writing the book must be provided for the book to be considered. If the book is **over ten years old**, it may be acceptable, but a paper describing what changes have taken place on the topic since it was published may also be requested.

The Diplomate Chair will make the decision if a submitted book meets the standards outlined above.

WRITTEN and SLIDE PRACTICAL

The written/slide practical exam must be taken at an Academy meeting. The candidates may sit for the written exam any time after one case report has been accepted by the committee. If the candidate is using lectures, posters, or publications in lieu of a case report, they must still have one original case report accepted by July 15 to sit for the written/slide practical exam at that year's Academy. Therefore, it is recommended that the candidate have the case submitted by June 1 in order for the committee to review their report, and to give the candidate time to make revisions.

The written exam will consist of multiple-choice questions that will test the candidate's knowledge on

anterior segment topics and current research in anterior segment. The slide practical exam will consist of case scenarios with accompanying video and /or photography to test the applicant's clinical acumen. After discussion, case elements will be altered so the candidate can show their clinical thinking process and how it may change based on the modifications made to the case. Examples: A) What if the patient is not in pain, how does that change your differential? B) You now have the following blood work results; does this change your clinical thinking? C) The patient's history now includes pregnancy. Does that change your choice of medicine? The written/slide practical exam is designed to give the candidate feedback on subject areas they may need to improve upon.

Candidates will be tested on the following concepts in regard to the Anterior Segment of the eye. Candidates will be given 90 minutes to take the test.

The written test will be divided into three sections:

1. 35% Inflammation
2. 35% on Infection
3. 30% on:

Trauma

Abnormal growth

Deposits

Dystrophies

Current Trends in Anterior Segment testing or treatment

The slide quiz will be 60 minutes and will be a case-based test.

For the purposes of the exam, the Anterior Segment includes the following structures:

Eyelids, Adnexa, Lacrimal system, Conjunctiva, Episclera, Sclera, Cornea, Limbus, Anterior chamber/Angle, Iris, Ciliary Body, Crystalline Lens

Recommended reference book: Cornea: Fundamentals, Diagnosis, and Management Vol. 1, Fourth edition by Mannis, and Holland

The Oral Exam and Discussion component must be taken at an Academy meeting. Candidates may only sit for the oral exam after all other requirements have been fulfilled. The final requirements must be completed by July 15 to sit for the Oral Exam/Discussion at that year's Academy. Therefore, it is recommended that the candidate have their final case submitted by June 1 in order for the committee to review their report and to give the candidate time to make revisions. The candidate's cases, as well as posters / papers, lectures, or journal articles (if applicable) will be discussed. Any weaknesses identified by the written/slide practical exam will be discussed to ensure the candidate has improved in these areas.

AWARDING OF DIPLOMATE

Upon successful completion of the requirements, the candidate will be nominated for Anterior Segment Diplomate status. The Board of the American Academy of Optometry as well as the Anterior Segment Section must approve the candidate's application and successful completion of requirements. The Diplomate in Anterior Segment will be awarded at the Annual Banquet.

FAILURE TO PROGRESS THROUGH THE PROCESS AFTER FIVE YEARS

The diplomate in Anterior Segment Disease is a process that has been designed to be progressed through over 5 years' time with enough time to account for even dramatic changes in a candidate's professional life. Therefore, under most circumstances failure to progress through the process in this time period will render this initial application void.

Candidates who have not completed requirements within five years, *but who have had some cases accepted or testing completed* may apply to have their application extended for two years. The Diplomate Committee will determine whether to extend an application based on work in progress.

Candidates who have not completed any requirements within the five-year application period may reapply to the program one time only with the following changes to the process:

1. A re-application will only be granted once two case reports have been submitted and accepted with any revisions necessary within 6-months of the re-application.
2. The \$100 application fee must be paid regardless of offers to waive the fee by the Academy.

The Section realizes that it is difficult to successfully complete the Diplomate process without prioritizing it. Therefore, to incentivize those doctors who initiate this process to prioritize and finish it, there is a strict time limit imposed: failure to complete the re-application process in five years or failure to reapply once a first application has remained dormant for five years will result in the inability for the applicant to become a Diplomate in the Section.