

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF OPTOMETRY STUDENTS

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The Minister of Health, on the recommendation of the South African Medical and Dental Council, hereby makes the following regulations in terms of [section 61](#) (1) (1) (ivA) of the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974):

1. Every optometry student at a university or training institution in the Republic offering training leading to a qualification which is recognised by the council under the provisions of the Act, shall submit to the registrar an application for registration as an optometry student in accordance with the provisions of regulation 2 hereof-
  - (1) in the case of students commencing attendance at such university or training institution in the first year of study, within two months following such commencement; or
  - (2) in the case of students who have been exempted from the first, second, or third year of study, within two months following their commencement of attendance in the second, third or fourth year of study, respectively.
2. Every application for registration as an optometry student shall be made in the form shown in Annexure A and shall be accompanied by-
  - (1) a birth certificate; or, if the student is unable to furnish a birth certificate, a baptismal certificate or such other evidence with regard to his age and correct names as may be to the satisfaction of the registrar;
  - (2) a matriculation certificate of the Joint Matriculation Board or a certificate of exemption from the matriculation examination granted by that Board; and a certificate of having passed an examination in Mathematics of a standard at least equivalent to that of the standard grade matriculation examination;
  - (3) a certificate of having commenced study for a qualification in optometry at a university or training institution approved by the council, which certificate shall indicate the year of study in which the student is enrolled and the date on which he was so enrolled;
  - (4) a registration fee of R10:

Provided that every application by an optometry student who has been admitted to a university or training institution in South Africa in a temporary capacity for a period not

exceeding one academic year and not for degree or diploma purposes, need be accompanied only by a certificate of having commenced study of a subject or subjects in a year of study for a qualification in optometry, and proof that he is registered as an optometry student by a registering authority recognised by the council for this purpose in a country or state other than the Republic of South Africa.

3. Every optometry student who resumes study after having interrupted such study for a period of at least one year, shall submit an application for reregistration within two months of resumption of study in optometry, such application shall be accompanied by a certificate of having resumed study in optometry, his original certificate of registration, and a fee of R 1: Provided that, in cases where a student interrupts his studies for a period of more than one year but annually states in writing his intention of continuing with his studies, the name of such student shall not be removed from the register of optometry students.
4. Every student who applies for registration in terms of regulation 3, and who is not able to submit his original certificate of registration, shall apply for a certified copy of his original certificate of registration for which a fee of 50c shall be payable.
5. Every application together with the documents and fees mentioned in regulation 2 or 3, as the case may be, submitted after the date mentioned in regulation 1 or 3, respectively, shall be subject to an additional registration fee of 50c in respect of each month or portion of a month it is submitted after such date.
6. No student shall be registered or reregistered as an optometry student unless he has complied in all respects with the requirements as laid down in regulation 2 or 3, as the case may be, and regulation 5, where applicable.
7. Every optometry student registered with the council shall be furnished with a registration certificate in the form shown in Annexure B.
8. In the case of a student who obtains recognition for subjects prescribed for a qualification in optometry, which subjects he took and in which he passed examinations at a university or training institution approved by the council (not at the university or training institution where he is admitted as an optometry student), the date of his registration as an optometry student may be ante-dated for a period equivalent to that for which he obtained recognition: Provided that recognition shall not be granted for a period of more than three years of study.
9. (1) Every university or training institution in the Republic offering training leading to a qualification in optometry which is recognised by the council under the provisions of the Act, shall submit to the registrar not later than 31 May each year, a list of names of all optometry students enrolled for the qualification in optometry at such university or training institution on 1. May of that year, as well as a list of all registered optometry students who had discontinued their studies during the preceding 12 months; such lists shall indicate the full names, the year of study and, in

cases where students had discontinued their optometry studies, the date of discontinuation, of each student.

- (2) Together with the lists mentioned in subregulation (1), the universities and training institutions concerned shall also submit a list of names of registered optometry students who had discontinued their studies temporarily during the preceding 12 months, the reasons for such temporary discontinuation, and the date on which the students concerned are expected to resume their studies for a qualification in optometry, as well as a list of names of students who, after temporary discontinuation of studies, had resumed their studies for a qualification in optometry during the preceding 12 months.
10. The name of an optometry student shall be removed from the register as soon as he shall have been registered as an optometrist, or as soon as proof is given to the satisfaction of the registrar that such student has discontinued his optometry studies in the Republic.
11. No person shall be eligible for registration as an optometrist until a period of four years shall have elapsed since the date of his registration as an optometry student.

**ANNEXURE A**

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL**

**THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY**

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS AN OPTOMETRY STUDENT**

The Registrar  
South African Medical and Dental Council  
P.O. Box 205  
Pretoria  
0001

I, (full names and surname)

\_\_\_\_\_

of (full address)

\_\_\_\_\_

born on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ hereby apply to be registered as  
an

optometry student and in support thereof submit herewith:

(a) Birth certificate,

- (b) Matriculation certificate/Certificate of exemption from the matriculation examination (if the certificate concerned does not indicate Mathematics, a further certificate must be submitted indicating that an examination in Mathematics has been passed of a standard equivalent to that of the standard grade matriculation examination.)
- (c) Certificate of having commenced study for a qualification in optometry] which certificate indicates that I enrolled on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) in the \_\_\_\_\_ year of study.\*
- (d) A fee of R10.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Insert year of study

**ANNEXURE B**

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL

THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY

**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AS AN OPTOMETRY STUDENT**

This is to certify that

\_\_\_\_\_ has satisfied me that he/she has complied in all respects with the requirements laid down in the Council's regulation relating to the registration of optometry students and that he/she has commenced study of a subject or subjects for a qualification in optometry, recognised by the Council for registration purposes, at the University/ Training Institution \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ year of study.

He/She has been registered as an optometry student with effect from the academic year

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Registrar

Pretoria, \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_