

Q&A's concerning "Visual Assessment Specialist" certification

Question: Why has the SAO chosen to establish an independent certification program, which is registered through the Institute of Certification Excellence, in the area of Ophthalmic Telehealth?

Answer: The Society to Advance Opticianry was established to advance to profession of opticianry. It has been over fifty (50) years since the optical profession developed a new skill area for serving the public. Ophthalmic Telehealth offers this opportunity.

Question: Why are all advanced certified optical professionals encouraged to become a "Visual Assessment Specialist" (VAS)?

Answer: When working as an ancillary professional with Ophthalmologists and Optometrists, being a credentialed optical professional with a thorough knowledge of Ophthalmic Optics will assure the patient a better experience.

Question: When will there be "VAS" training and certification available?

Answer: Our first online training and certification was re-scheduled for March 2020 in New York. Due to the Pandemic and social unrest we have chosen to offer our training and testing via online in the future. We are offering our first SAO presentation during the week of September 21st through September 25th in Las Vegas, NV. Our online courses will follow this presentation.

Question: Who currently qualifies to take the training?

Answer: All advanced certified optical professional who has a solid background in optics and is interested in assisting Ophthalmologists and Optometrists by becoming a "Visual Assessment Specialist". Ophthalmic Opticians® (O.O.), Certified Ophthalmic Techs (COT)&(COMT), Certified Paraoptometric Techs (CPOT), NFOS School Graduates, ABO Advanced Certified Opticians (ABO-AC)&(ABOM), and NCLE Advanced Certified Opticians (NCLE-AC) are qualified.



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"... to elevate the profession of opticianry through advanced education thus providing a higher level of care to the benefit of the public."