



## National Examining Board of Ocularists

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\*UPDATE INCLUDED IN THE ASO SPRING NEWSLETTER\*

June 1, 2020

Warmest greetings to all Ocularists,

On behalf of the NEBO Board, I would like to update all BCOs, NEBO Candidates and Ocularists on some of the operational changes that will be coming into practice in the next few months.

First, the rule that allows for any NEBO exam candidate to sit for the exam (prior to completing their requirements (either Pathway I or II) within a calendar year of the annual exam will still apply for the 2020 annual exam. After 2021, you must either have your COO diploma in hand (indicating your completion of all requirements) or in the event of Pathway II, you must have completed all of your time requirements prior to applying to take the NEBO exam. As we have and always have had an “offsite” exam option for the NEBO exam, this continues to allow the candidate options for both time and cost savings. Offsite exams are naturally more expensive for all concerned but with hotel and airline costs mitigated by the slightly higher “offsite” option the time and financial savings can be notable.

Second, many of you are already into the new 4-year recertification plan that includes the new smaller recertification documents and the discontinuation of the confusing “registration” requirements of the past. The new Scheme being presented for NCCA Re-accreditation for NEBO uses this cornerstone to meet their requirements along with clarity and simplification for the BCO. The ratio of credits vs. time is the same as the old program but it corrects “look back” and inappropriate credit banking practices that cannot be defended in certification programs for “currency” issues.

Third, for the last year or so we have been informing everyone that to comply and ensure NEBO financial performance requirements; (in our new NCCA scheme) a yearly “dues” or Maintenance of Certification fee (M.O.C.) of \$250.00 (two hundred fifty dollars) will begin for all BCOs after their conversion to the new 4-year plan. To be clear; a BCO does not start paying their yearly MOC until they have paid for either a Recert or registration fee, based on the current fee schedule with the MOC beginning on January 1 of the next calendar year.

Fourth, NEBO has been in touch with many similar medical certification/licensure Boards as well as discussions with ICE and Scantron on options for testing, waivers and or certification extensions during these confusing and constantly changing times. We have several options worked out that will accommodate most scenarios that will allow BCOs to weather the storm. These options will still qualify the NEBO BCO for recertification and continue to protect the title and quality of the BCO in the eyes of the public and professionals.

Finally, please check the NEBOBOARD.org website regularly for the latest information, photos and important dates. Our NEBO mid-Year newsletter will be forthcoming to all BCOs and will be posted on the website along with those of the past few years.

As always, your NEBO Staff and Board is available for questions or individual assistance.

We would like to thank the ASO for allowing us to update you here and hope you all continue to stay safe and healthy as we emerge in the ever-changing world to serve those in need.

Respectfully,



Dr. Daniel C. Yeager  
NEBO Executive Director

