

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 5982

14 March 2025

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO.56 OF 1974)

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF OPTOMETRY OR  
DISPENSING OPTICIAN STUDENTS

The Minister of Health intends, under section 61 (1) (a) (i) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) and after consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, to make the regulations in the schedule.

  
DR P.A. MOTSOALEDI, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 10/3/2025

## SCHEDULE

### Definitions

1. In these regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning and, unless the context indicates otherwise-

**“educational institution”** means a university or any training institution in the Republic of South Africa offering training leading to a qualification which is recognised by the Professional Board or prescribed for registration of Optometrists or Dispensing Opticians in terms of the Act;

**“Professional Board”** means the Professional Board for Optometry and Dispensing Opticians established in terms of section 15 of the Act;

**“student”** means a student enrolled at an educational institution for training leading to registration as an Optometrist or Dispensing Optician or a person registered as an Optometry or Dispensing Optician student; and

**“Act”** means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974).

### Registration of students

2. (1) A student enrolled at an educational institution for training leading to registration as an Optometrist or Dispensing Optician must, within two months of such enrolment, apply to the registrar for registration as a student in accordance with the provisions of subregulation (2).

(2) The application referred to in subregulation (1) must be submitted to the Registrar on a Form supplied by the Professional Board and must be accompanied by-

- (a) a certified copy of the identity document or passport in a case of a foreign student, or such other proof of age and correct names as may be acceptable to the registrar;
- (b) a certified copy of the marriage certificate in case of change of name after marriage;
- (c) a certified copy of the matriculation certificate or an equivalent certificate or certificate of exemption from the matriculation examination;
- (d) a certificate of enrolment at an educational institution, which certificate shall indicate the year of study in which the student is enrolled and the date on which he or she is so enrolled; and
- (e) registration fee.

(3) An application by a student who has been enrolled at an educational institution in the Republic in a temporary capacity for a period not exceeding one academic year and not for degree or diploma purposes, must be accompanied only by:

- (a) a certificate of having commenced study of a subject or subjects in a year of study for a qualification in Optometry or Dispensing Optician; and
- (b) proof that he/she is registered as an Optometry or Dispensing Optician Student by a registering authority for this purpose other than the Republic of South Africa.

### **Application for re-registration**

3. (1) A student who resumes study after having interrupted such study for a period of at least one year, must apply to the registrar for re-registration within two months of resumption of study.

(2) The application referred to in subregulation (1) must be accompanied by a certificate to the effect that the student has resumed study in Optometry or Dispensing Opticianry and the original certificate of registration.

(3) The name of a student who interrupts his or her studies for a period of more than one year but annually advises the registrar in writing of his or her intention to continue with his or her studies shall not be removed from the register of students.

(4) A student who applies for re-registration in terms of subregulation (1), and who is not able to submit the original certificate of registration, must apply to the registrar for a certified copy of the original certificate of registration for which a fee shall be payable.

(5) An application referred to in regulation 2 or 3 which has been submitted later than the period referred to in regulation 2 or 3, respectively, must be subjected to an additional registration fee in respect of each month or portion of the month thereof.

(6) A student who has not complied with the requirements referred to in these regulations may not be registered or re-registered as an Optometry or Dispensing Optician student.

(7) A student registered as an Optometry or Dispensing Optician student in terms of the Act must be furnished with a registration certificate by the Registrar.

#### **Information to be submitted to the professional board**

4. (1) An educational institution must submit to the registrar not later than 31 May of each year: -

- (a) a list of students enrolled for the qualification in Optometry or Dispensing Opticianry at such an education institution; and
- (b) a list of students who had discontinued their studies during the preceding 12 months.

(2) The list referred to in subregulation (1) must include the full names, the year of study and, in cases where students had discontinued their studies, the date of discontinuation of each student.

(3) Together with the list referred to in sub regulation (1), an educational institution must submit:

- (a) a list of 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; and
- (b) a list of students who, after temporary discontinuation of studies, had resumed their studies during the preceding 12 months.

#### **Removal of the name from the register**

5. The name of a student must be removed from the student register as soon as the student has been registered as an Optometrist or Dispensing Optician, or as soon as proof is given to the satisfaction of the registrar that such student has discontinued the Optometry or Dispensing Opticianry studies in the Republic.

#### **Repeal**

6. The Regulations Relating to the Registration of Optometry Students as published under Government Notice No. R. 1845 in *Government Gazette* No. 5741 of 16 September 1977 are hereby repealed.

#### **Short title**

7. These Regulations are called Regulations Relating to the Registration of Optometry or Dispensing Optician Students, 2025.