

American Academy of Optometry
Glaucoma Section Diplomate Program, Clinical Track
CANDIDATE GUIDE (version Nov 2014)

The Glaucoma Section of the American Academy of Optometry, established in November 2014, invites interested Academy Fellows to declare their candidacy for Diplomate in Glaucoma. Completion of the Glaucoma Diplomate Program will result in expanded knowledge and confidence in evidence-based glaucoma, and will reflect commitment to the highest level of clinical care in glaucoma.

I. Eligibility

- a. Current, active member of the American Academy of Optometry in good standing
- b. 4 years of clinical experience (that includes care of patients with glaucoma-related diagnoses) prior to applying to program. Please note that the potential candidate can be working on case reports and becoming well acquainted with the important literature in the pre-application period.

II. Initial submission

- a. Complete the on-line application
- b. Submit a copy of your Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 1. The CV should be as complete as possible and should include information on educational background, professional experience, publications, speaking activities, optometry organizations, honors, and certifications
- c. Pay \$100.00 application fee, payable to AAO
- d. Once all application materials are received, the Diplomate Chair will contact the candidate to provide further instruction about the program and case report submission requirements. Additionally, in conjunction with applicant input, a mentor will be assigned to support the candidate during the Diplomate Program process.

III. Case Reports: A total of SEVEN written reports are required; 6 of these written reports must cover CORE topics as noted below. Please click [HERE](#) for an example of the preferred case report format.

- a. Core Topics include:
 1. Ocular Hypertension/Glaucoma Suspect
 2. Mild/Moderate Primary Open-angle Glaucoma
 3. Advanced glaucoma (Severe glaucomatous optic neuropathy and/or severe visual field defect on standard automated perimetry)
 4. Primary angle closure glaucoma
 5. Pseudoexfoliation syndrome/glaucoma OR pigment dispersion syndrome/pigmentary glaucoma
 6. Critical review of a published glaucoma scientific research paper
 1. This task consists of a critical peer appraisal of a scientific paper published in an Index-Medicus publication; published review criteria will be made available to the candidate to aid this process (these criteria will also be used to score this item.)
 2. Scientific papers for this review task will be made available either on-line within the glaucoma section of the AAO website or via the Diplomate Chair.
- b. The Non-Core case report may cover cases in the following areas:
 1. Either pseudoexfoliation or pigmentary glaucoma if not completed as a Core requirement
 2. Inflammatory/uveitic glaucoma
 3. Various forms of trauma-related glaucoma
 4. Steroid-induced glaucoma
 5. Developmental/congenital glaucoma
 6. Glaucoma related to increased episcleral venous pressure
 7. Plateau iris syndrome/glaucoma

8. Other Secondary glaucoma
 1. Neovascular glaucoma
 2. Irido-corneal-endothelial syndrome
 3. Lens-induced glaucoma
 4. Malignant glaucoma
 5. Intraocular-tumor related glaucoma
 6. Suprachoroidal hemorrhage and glaucoma
 7. Medication-related angle closure glaucoma

c. A published paper in a peer-reviewed, index-medicus journal may be accepted as a substitution for 1 written case report. Qualifications for this substitution will include authorship criteria (candidate must be listed as first or second author), content requirements (manuscript must be directly related to glaucoma topic), and approval by the Diplomate chair.

d. Written case reports must meet the following criteria to be accepted:

1. Comprehensive description of the case with all ocular findings clearly documented and detailed;
2. Comprehensive review of pertinent aspects of the case including:
 1. Pathophysiologic factors
 2. Epidemiology: Prevalence of Incidence
 3. Diagnostic Assessment
 4. Risk Assessment
 5. Management considerations
3. Recommended format:
 1. Introduction
 2. Case Review
 3. Discussion
 4. Conclusions
 5. References (full citations required)
 - a. Number references consecutively in the order of their citation in the text and identify by superscript numbers. Do not insert references as footnotes. Candidates are responsible for making sure that each reference is correctly cited and listed. It is strongly recommended that candidates use a reference management system such as Endnote. References must be in the form currently used in the OVS Journal. A file containing the journal's format for references is available on the Journal home page (<http://ovs.edmgr.com/>) Click on "Instructions for Authors."
4. Number the pages of the report consecutively
5. The report should be double-spaced.
6. Restrict abbreviations to those that are widely used and understood. Introduce each abbreviation in parentheses after the first appearance of the expanded term. Abbreviations of standard measure used with number quantities (mm, Hg, cm, and ml) are used without initial expansion
7. Each case report should be concise, yet complete based upon the complexity of the case.
8. All cases should include HIPAA compliant supporting images (e.g. visual field results, disc photographs, OCT results, etc.)
9. Each report must be well-referenced and demonstrate the use of evidence-based principles in patient assessment, decision-making, and overall management
10. The reports should exhibit publication-quality sophistication and grammar;
11. Each report will be reviewed by at least two Glaucoma section diplomate committee members. If the written report requires revision, the paper will be returned with specific reviewer comments to improve the paper. If reviewers disagree with regard to acceptability of the report, the chair of the Diplomate program committee will adjudicate and work to a consensus.

IV. Written Examination: The candidate must pass a written examination with a score of 75% or better. This examination will be administered at an American Academy of Optometry annual meeting and cover a broad range of glaucoma topics including but not limited to anatomy, physiology, diagnosis, data interpretation, and management considerations. The exam will include visual field printouts, disc and other clinical photographs, and candidate-specific OCT printouts (to coincide with the type of OCT the candidate typically uses in practice). The candidate will be eligible to take this examination after completion/acceptance of at least 4 written reports as described above.

V. Oral Examination/Discussion: The candidate who has all seven written reports accepted by July 15 and who has passed the written test will be eligible to take the Oral examination at an American Academy of Optometry annual meeting. The candidate's cases, as well as posters, lectures, or journal articles (if applicable) will be discussed. The candidate will also be asked to describe how he/she plans to contribute to improving glaucoma-related care at the local, national, international, and Academy levels.

VI. Awarding of Diplomate: Upon successful completion of all requirements, the candidate will be nominated for Diplomate in Glaucoma. The Board of the American Academy of Optometry as well as the Glaucoma Section officers must approve the candidate's application and successful completion of requirements. The Diplomate in Glaucoma will be awarded in person at the American Academy of Optometry Annual Meeting Banquet.