



Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians

AMENDED Guidance Document: December 8, 2022

Approved Related Technical Instruction Curricula For Optician Apprenticeships

I. Background

On October 14, 2021, the Optician regulations were amended to remove antiquated language that does not reflect the related instruction requirements of registered apprenticeships under the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI). The Board eliminated the language requiring apprentices to complete a minimum of one school year of related instruction. On August 17, 2022, the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians approved the guidance document to conform to the regulations. The revised language on the related technical instruction component of registered apprenticeships aligns with the current practices and requirements of the Department of Labor and Industry, which administers registered apprenticeships.

II. Issue

The related technical instruction requirements, which are set forth by state and federal regulations, are intended to provide the minimum necessary theory

instruction along with on-the-job training essential for registered apprenticeships. This requirement has been deemed necessary by state and federal requirements to ensure a minimal level of competency for the protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare. The language of the guidance document must be in accordance with current standards while remaining flexible for any unforeseen future state or federal revision.

III. Board Guidance

On August 17, 2022, the Board approved guidance for related technical instruction.

Board Regulation 18 VAC 80-30-20.5.b establishes the training option of completion of a registered apprenticeship including all required related technical instruction.

The Virginia Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians will be taking public comment on this proposed guidance document regarding approved related technical instruction curricula for the optician apprenticeship. A 30-day comment period will begin on November 7, 2022.

If you wish to comment on the proposed guidance document, you may do so via the Town Hall website or you may submit written comments so that they are received no later than December 7, 2022 to:

*Stephen Kirschner, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400
Richmond, VA 23233
(804) 367-2960
hasopt@dpor.virginia.gov*