

Occupational Licensing Study 50 State Comparison

State Board of Optometry

Optometrist - Diagnostic
Optometrist - Therapeutic
Optometrist - Therapeutic & Glaucoma



Presented by the Pennsylvania
Department of State

2020

Optometrist – Diagnostics

Optometrist with a focus in diagnostics.

Diagnostic refers to any means or method compatible with optometric education and professional competence. The term shall encompass the use of pharmaceutical agents for diagnostic purposes classified as miotics, mydriatics, cycloplegics, topical anesthetics and dyes when applied topically to the eye, which pharmaceutical agents shall be approved by the Secretary of Health.

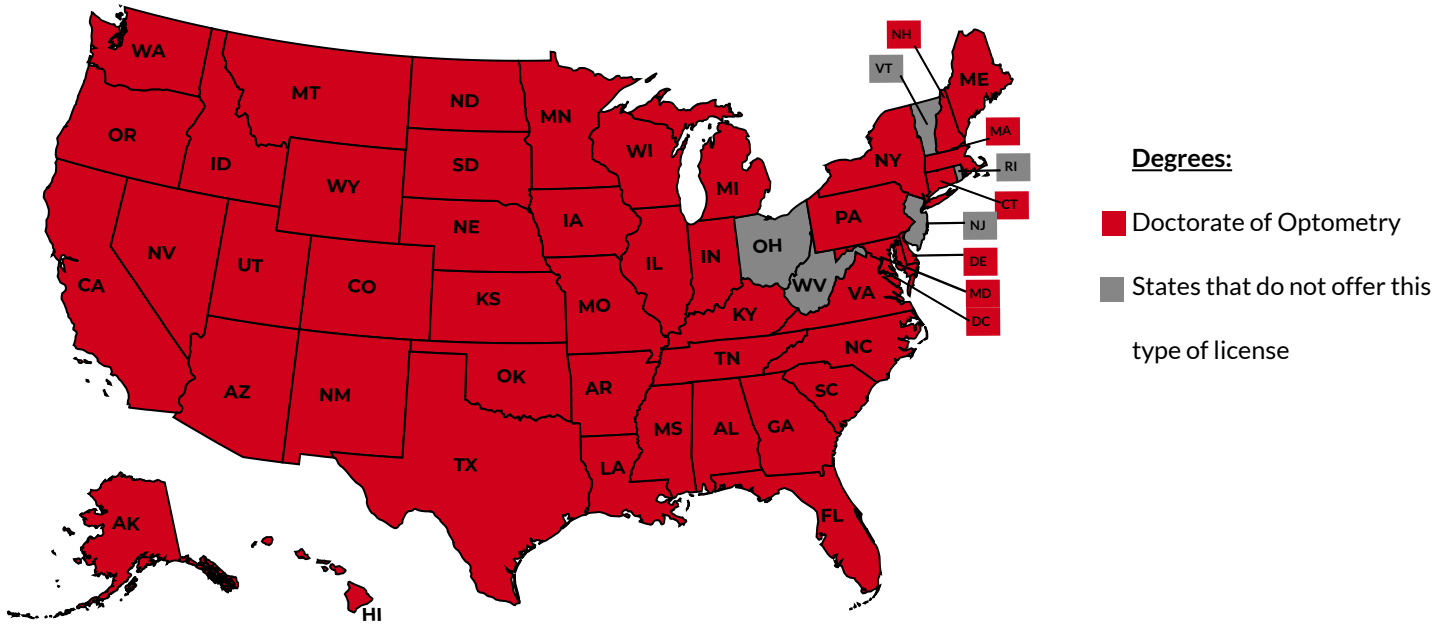
Optometrist - Therapeutics

Optometrist with authorization to prescribe and administer pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes.

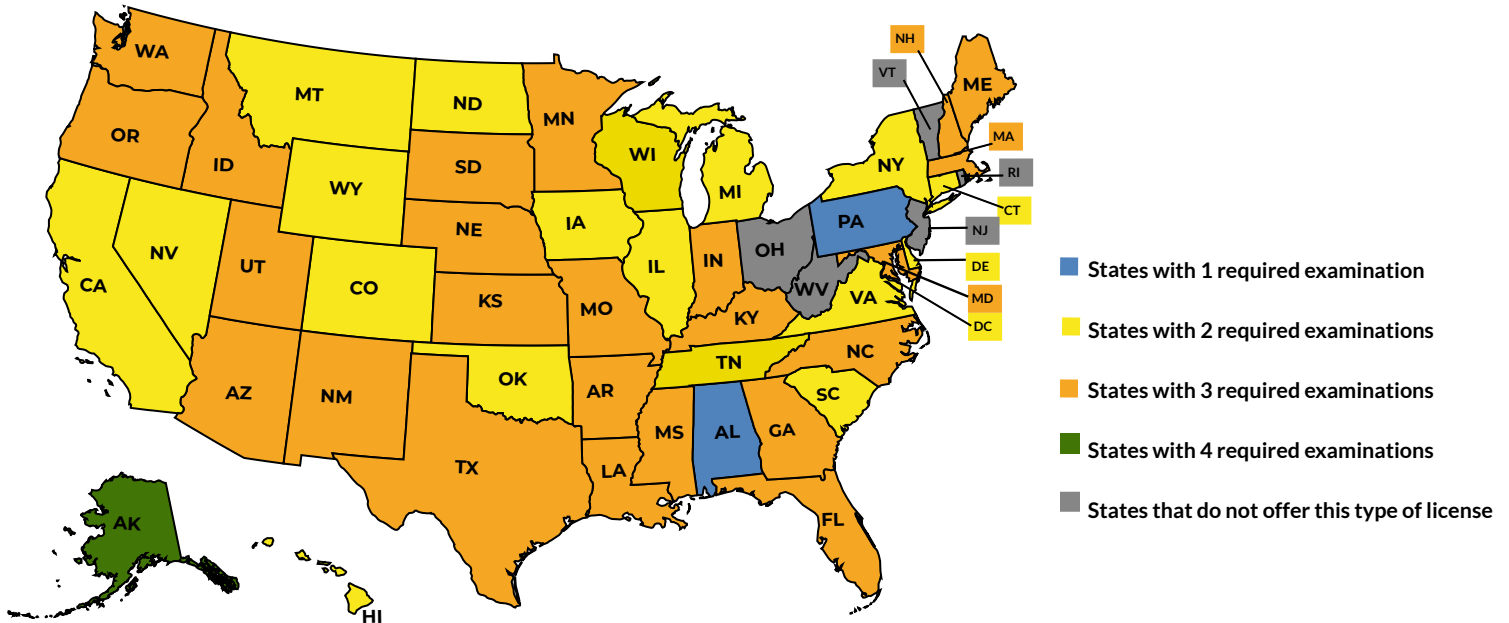
Optometrist - Therapeutics & Glaucoma

An optometrist who is licensed to treat eye diseases and write prescriptions as needed, in addition to ascertaining the need for visual corrections such as glasses, contact lenses and refractive surgery.

Optometrist - Diagnostic Degree Requirement

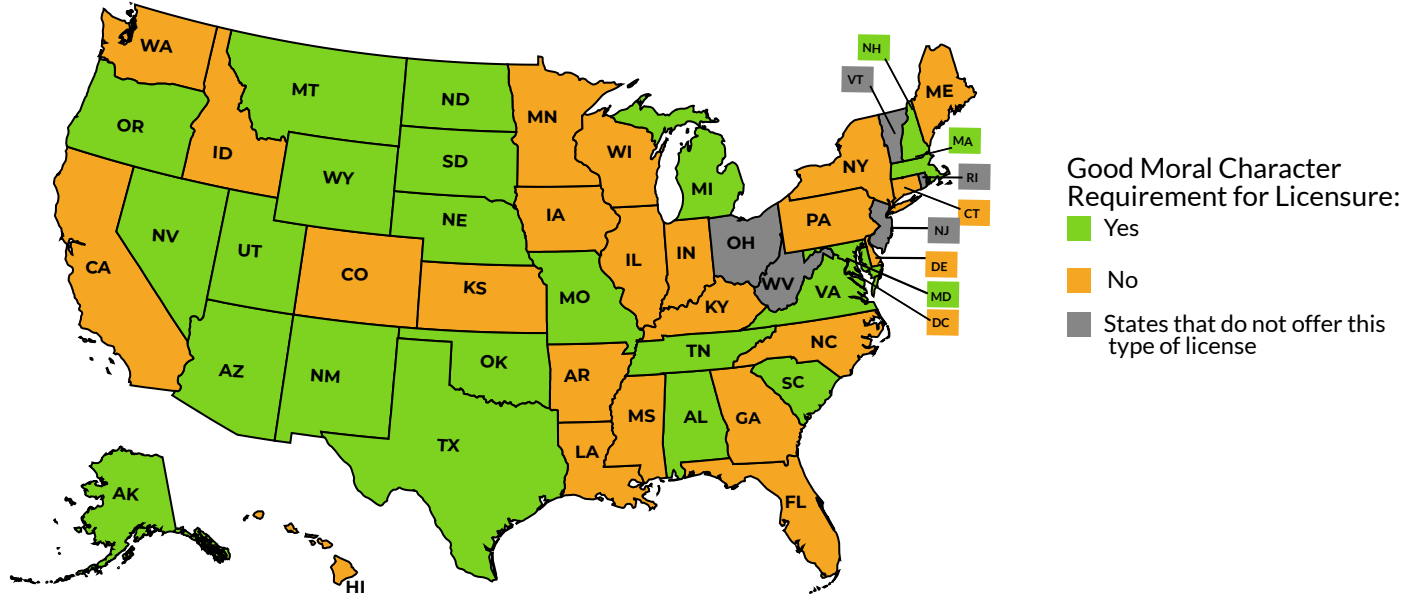


Examination Requirement

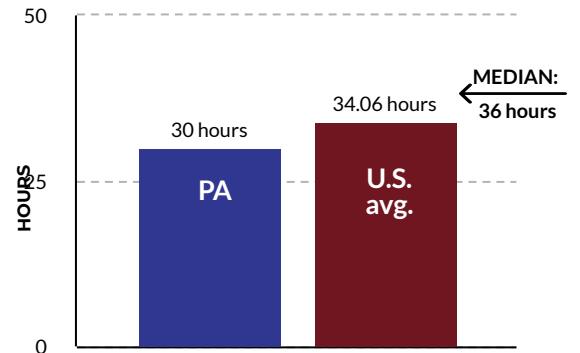
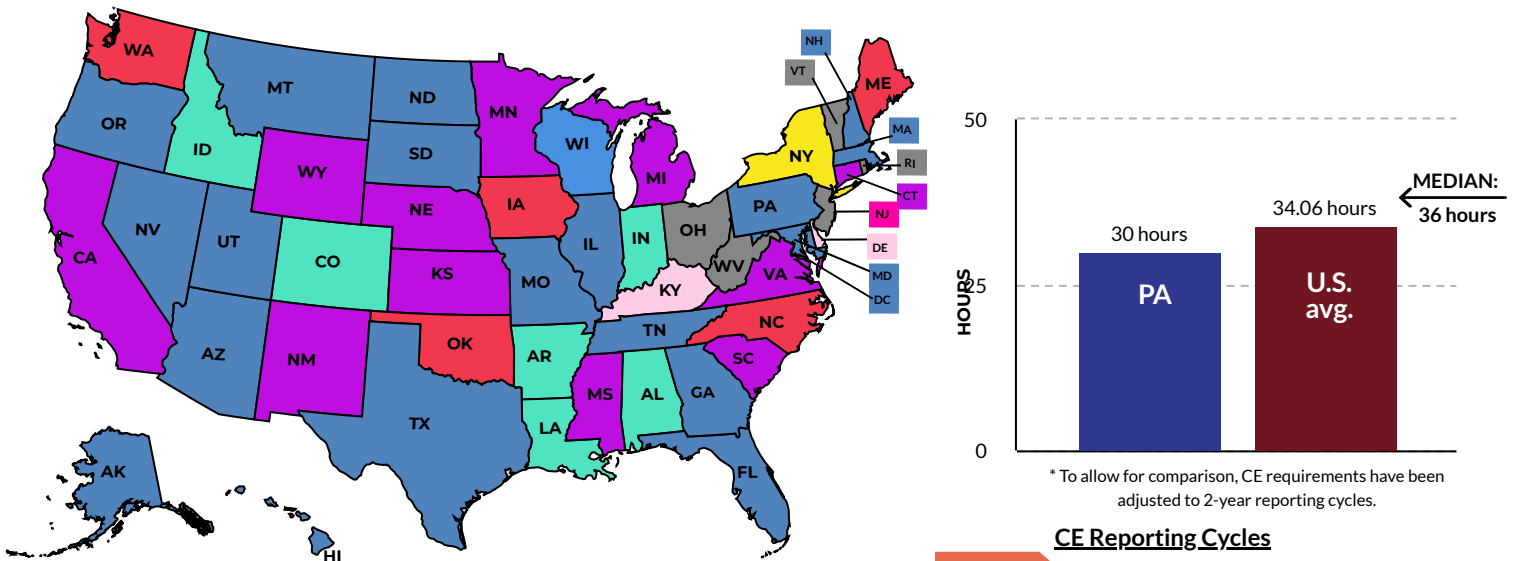


Optometrist - Diagnostic

Good Moral Character Requirement

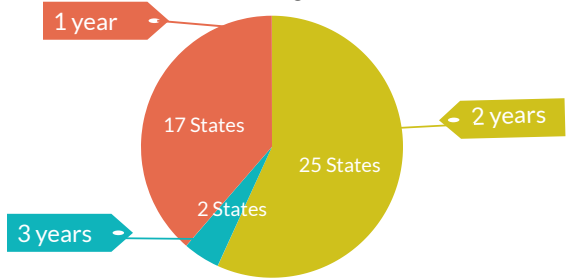


Continuing Education Requirement



* To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

CE Reporting Cycles

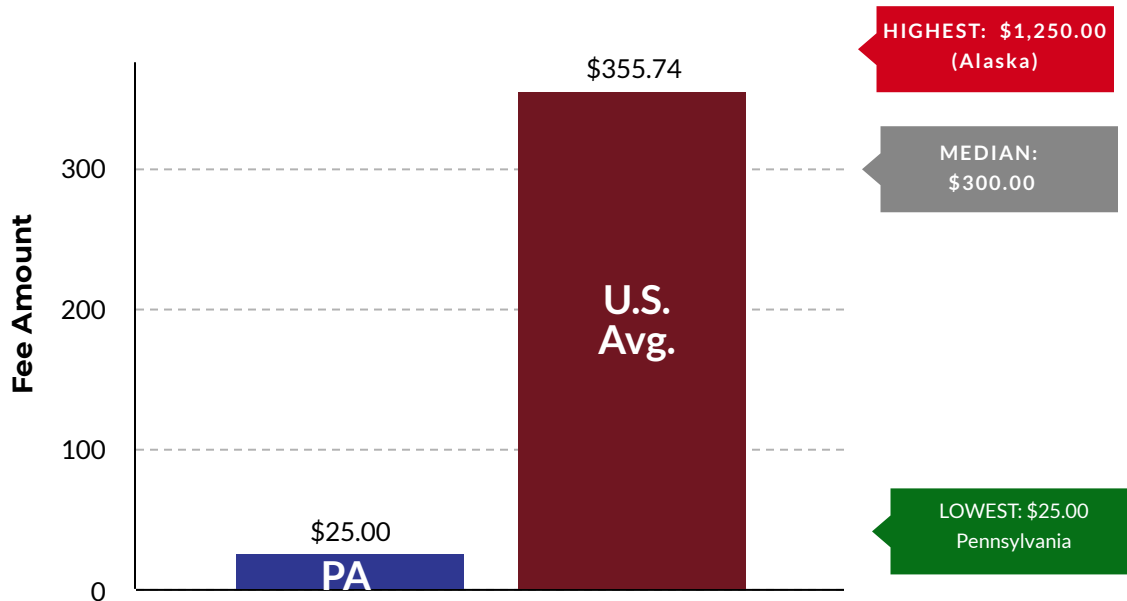


*5 States do not offer this type of license & NY has no CE requirement pg. 2

- 0 CE hours (New York only)
- 10 - 19 CE hours/2 yrs
- 20 - 29 CE hours/2 yrs
- 30 - 39 CE hours/2 yrs
- 40 - 49 CE hours/2 yrs
- 50 CE hours/2 yrs
- States that do not offer this type of license

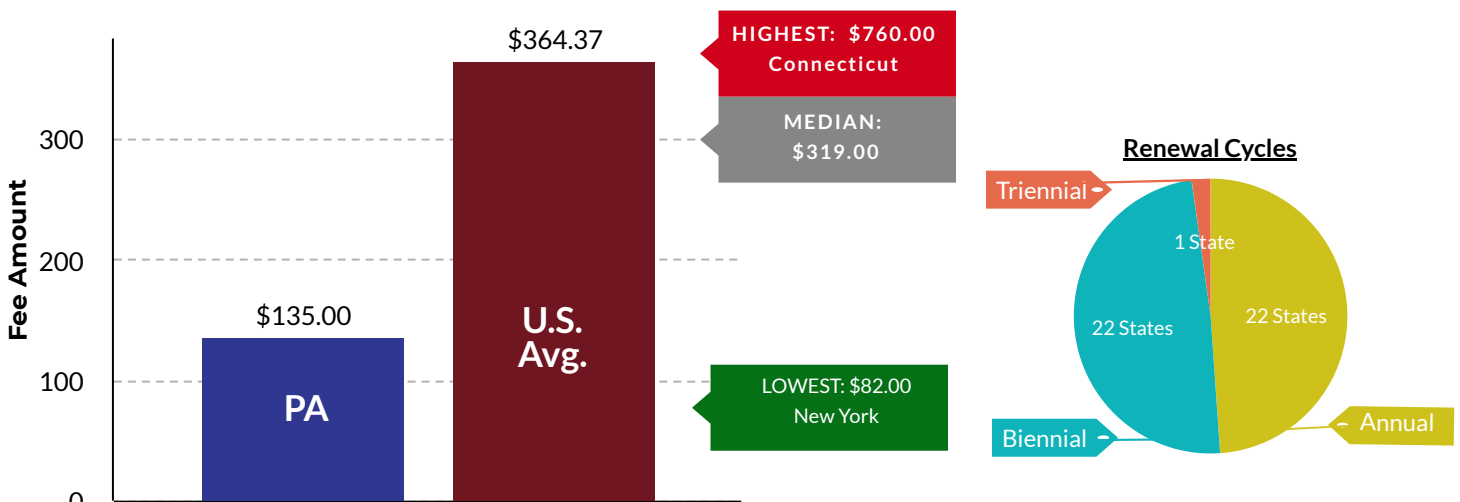
Optometrist - Diagnostic

Initial Licensing Fee



* Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.

Renewal Fees



*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

*5 States do not offer this type of license

Optometrist – Diagnostic

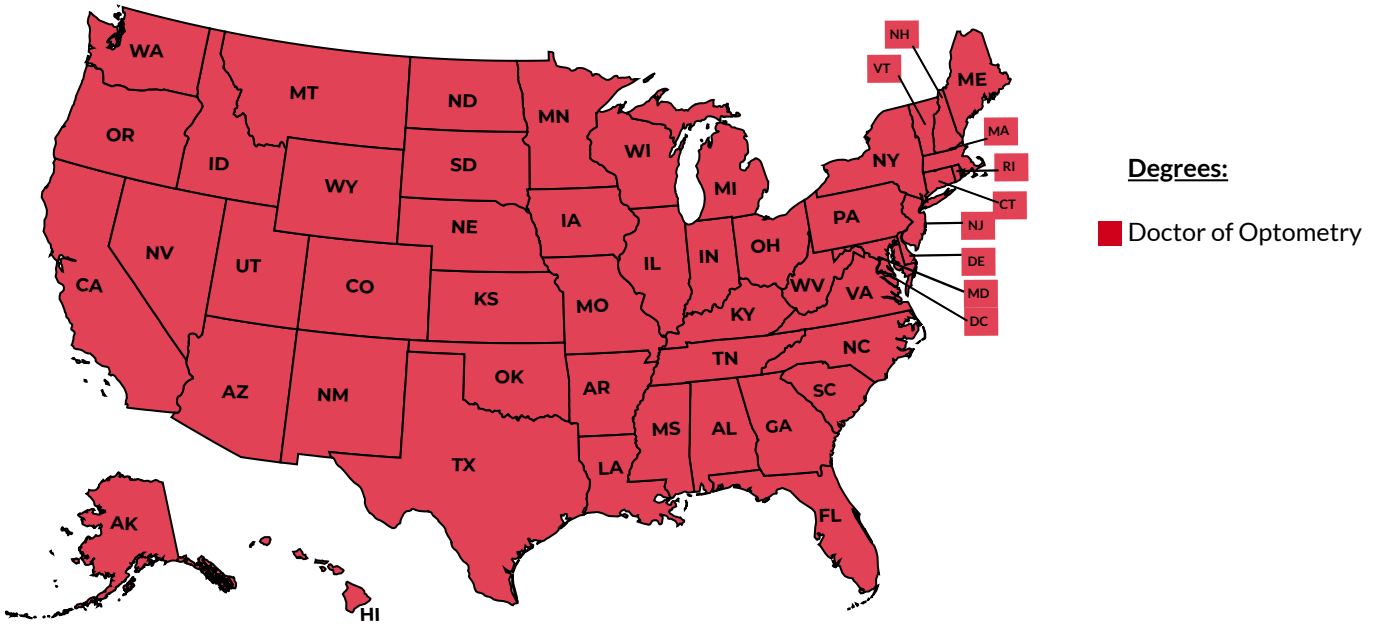
States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

<u>Endorsement</u>	<u>Reciprocity</u>	<u>Not Specified in Legislation</u>
Arizona New Hampshire	Alabama	California
Arkansas New Mexico	Delaware	Maine
Colorado New York	Florida	Oklahoma
Connecticut North Carolina	Hawaii	Oregon
District of Columbia North Dakota	Kansas	
Georgia South Carolina	Massachusetts	<u>States that do not license</u>
Idaho South Dakota	Mississippi	Delaware
Illinois Tennessee	Nebraska	Massachusetts
Indiana Texas	Pennsylvania**	New Jersey
Iowa Utah	<u>Credentials</u>	New York
Kentucky Virginia	Alaska	Ohio
Louisiana Washington		Rhode Island
Maryland Wisconsin		Vermont
Michigan Wyoming		West Virginia
Minnesota		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nevada		

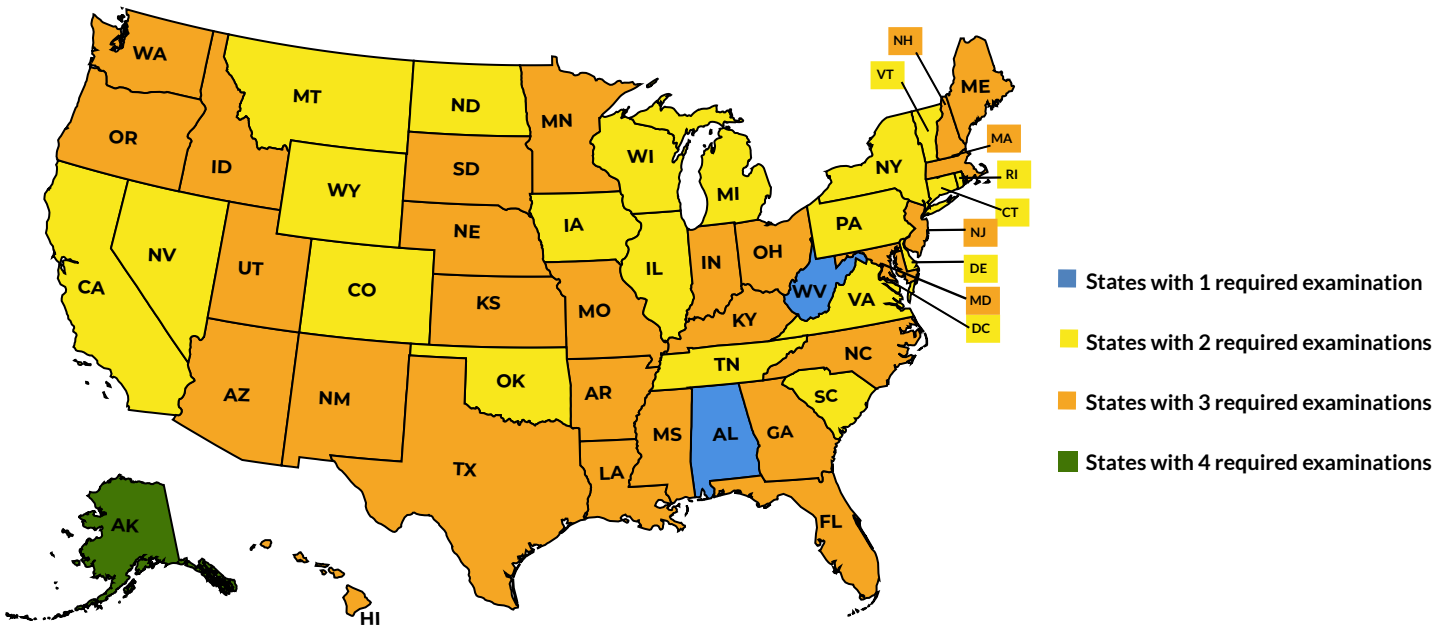
**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.

Optometrist - Therapeutic

Degree Requirement

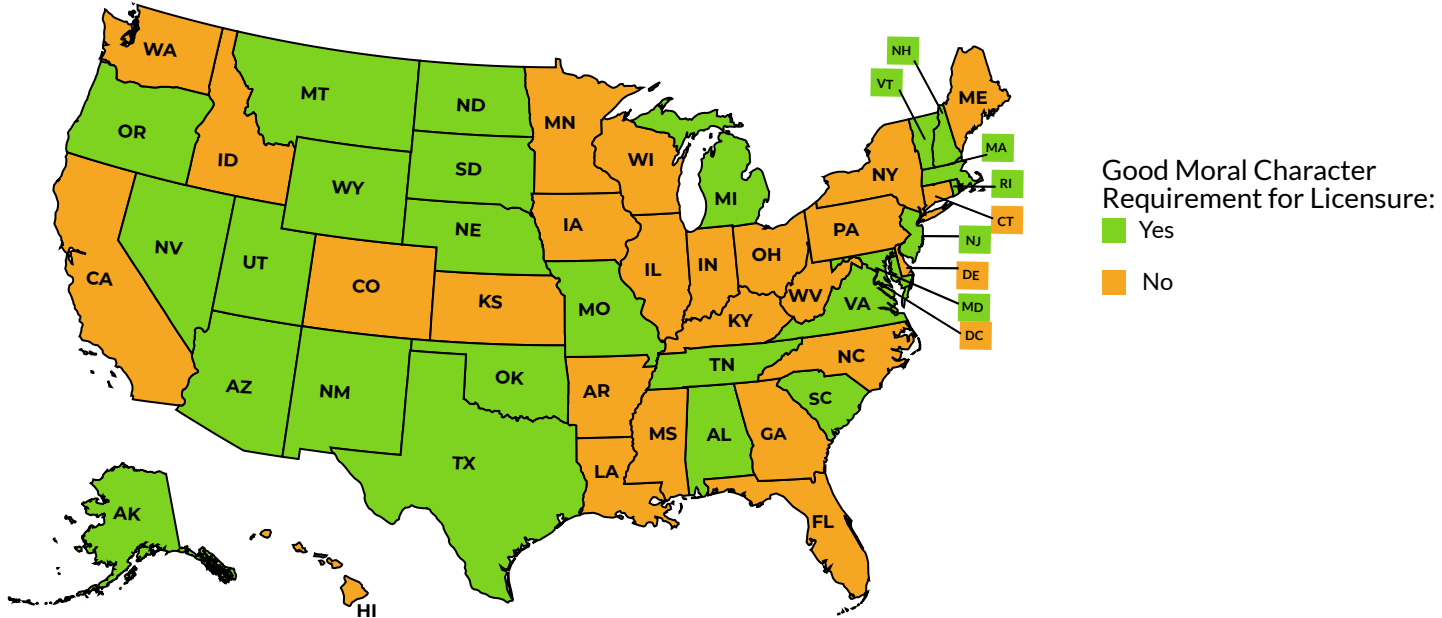


Examination Requirement

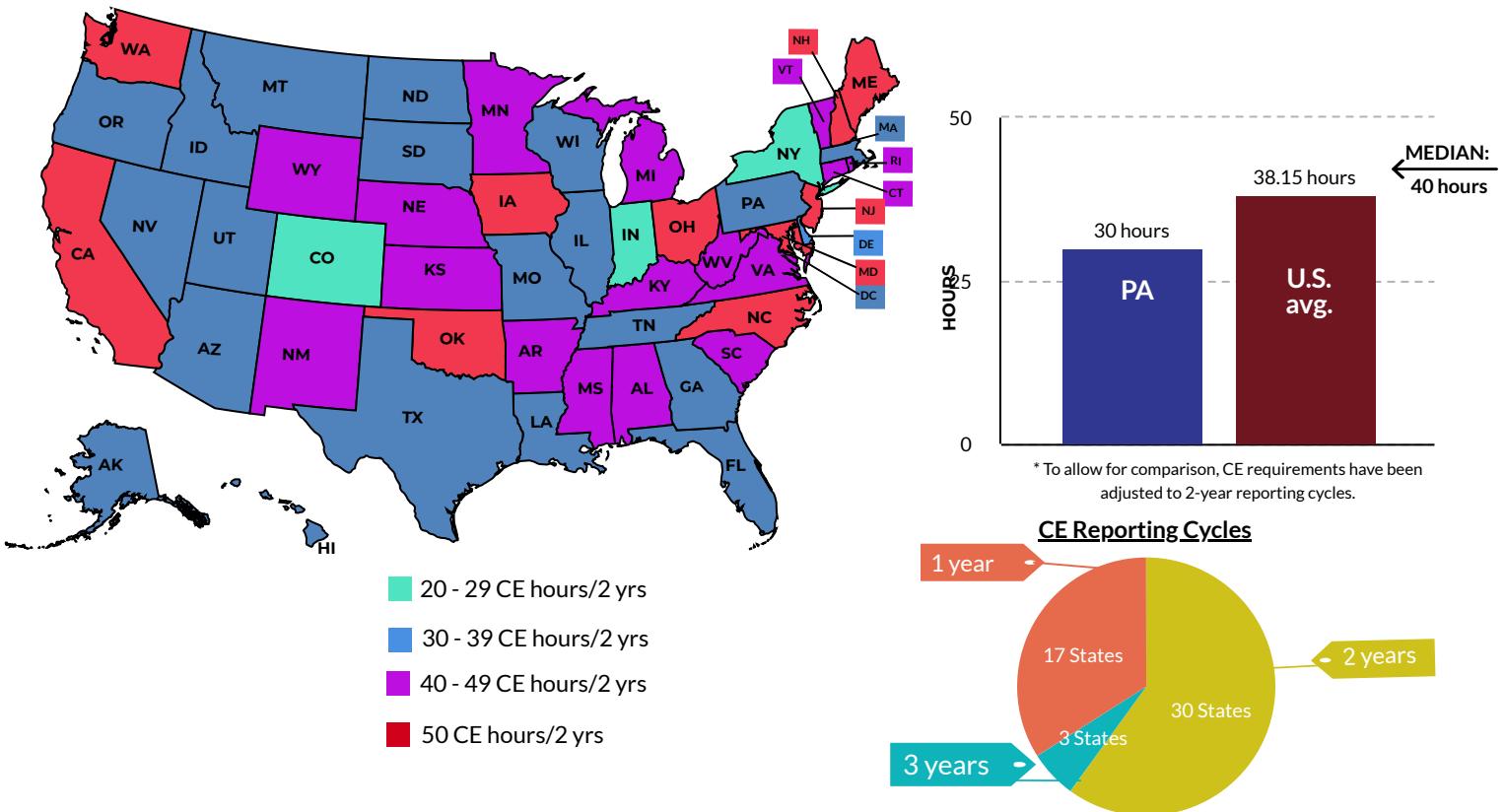


Optometrist - Therapeutic

Good Moral Character Requirement

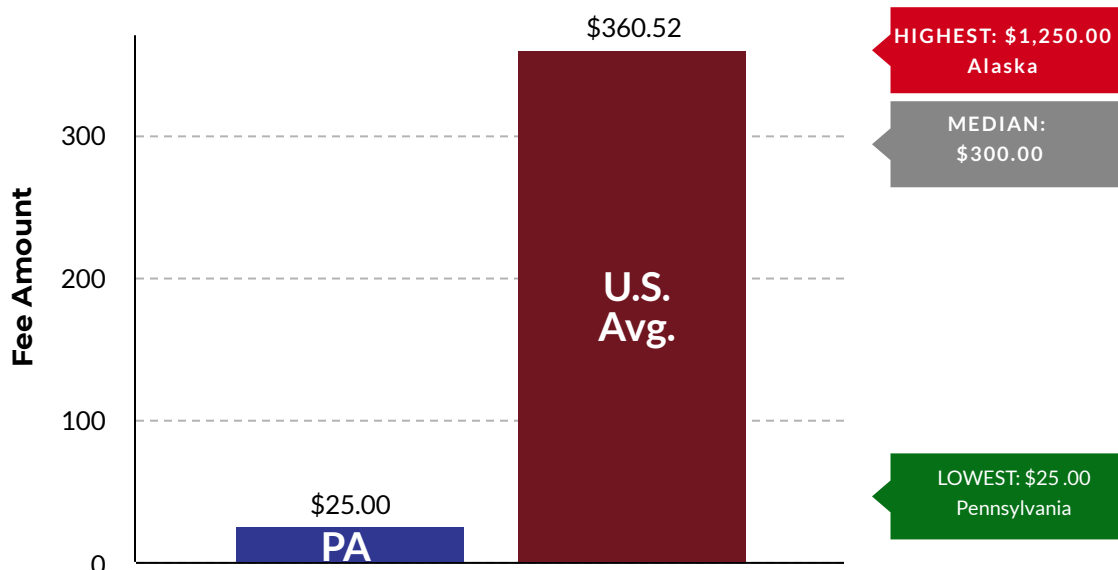


Continuing Education Requirement



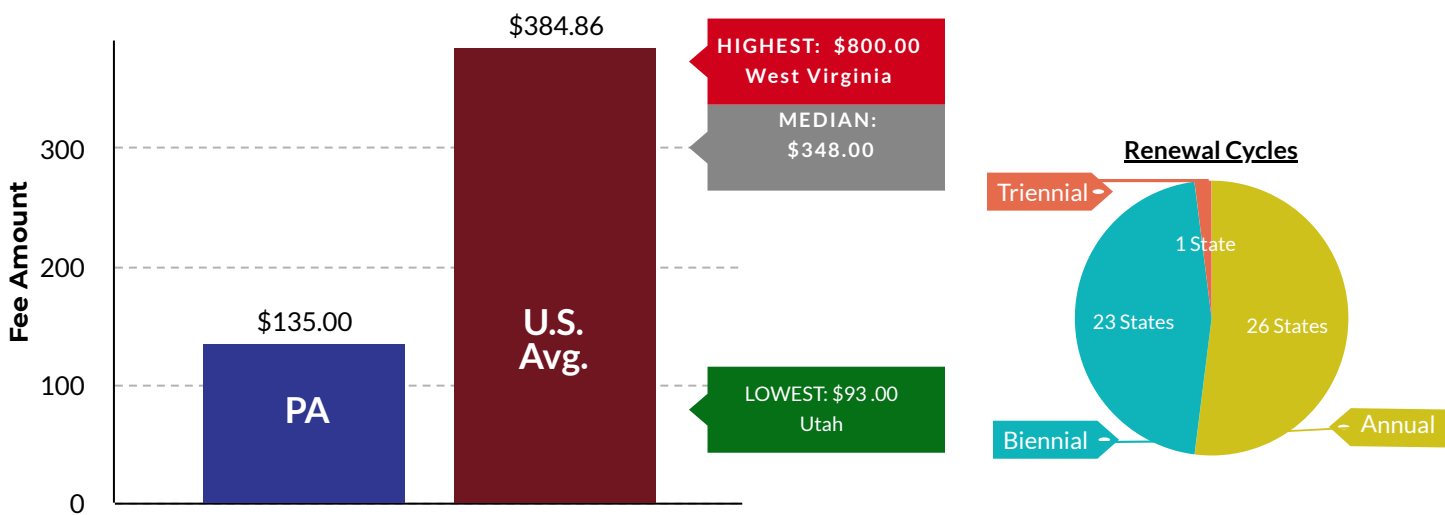
Optometrist - Therapeutic

Initial Licensing Fee



* Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.

Renewal Fees



*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

Optometrist – Therapeutic

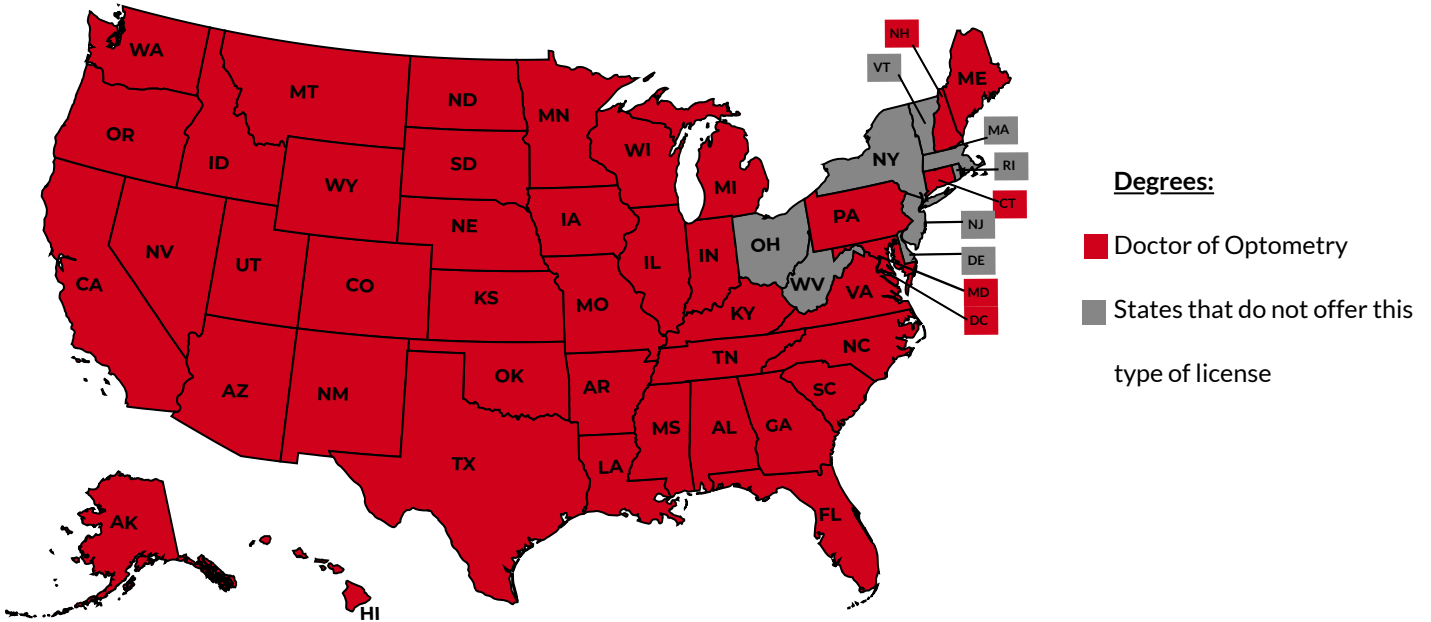
States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

<u>Endorsement</u>		<u>Reciprocity</u>	<u>Not Specified in Legislation</u>
Arizona	New Hampshire	Alabama	California
Arkansas	New Jersey	Delaware	Maine
Colorado	New Mexico	Florida	Oklahoma
Connecticut	New York	Hawaii	Oregon
District of Columbia	North Carolina	Kansas	
Georgia	North Dakota	Massachusetts	
Idaho	Ohio	Mississippi	
Illinois	Rhode Island	Nebraska	
Indiana	South Carolina	Pennsylvania**	
Iowa	South Dakota	West Virginia	
Kentucky	Tennessee	<u>Credentials</u>	
Louisiana	Texas	Alaska	
Maryland	Utah		
Michigan	Vermont		
Minnesota	Virginia		
Missouri	Washington		
Montana	Wisconsin		
Nevada	Wyoming		

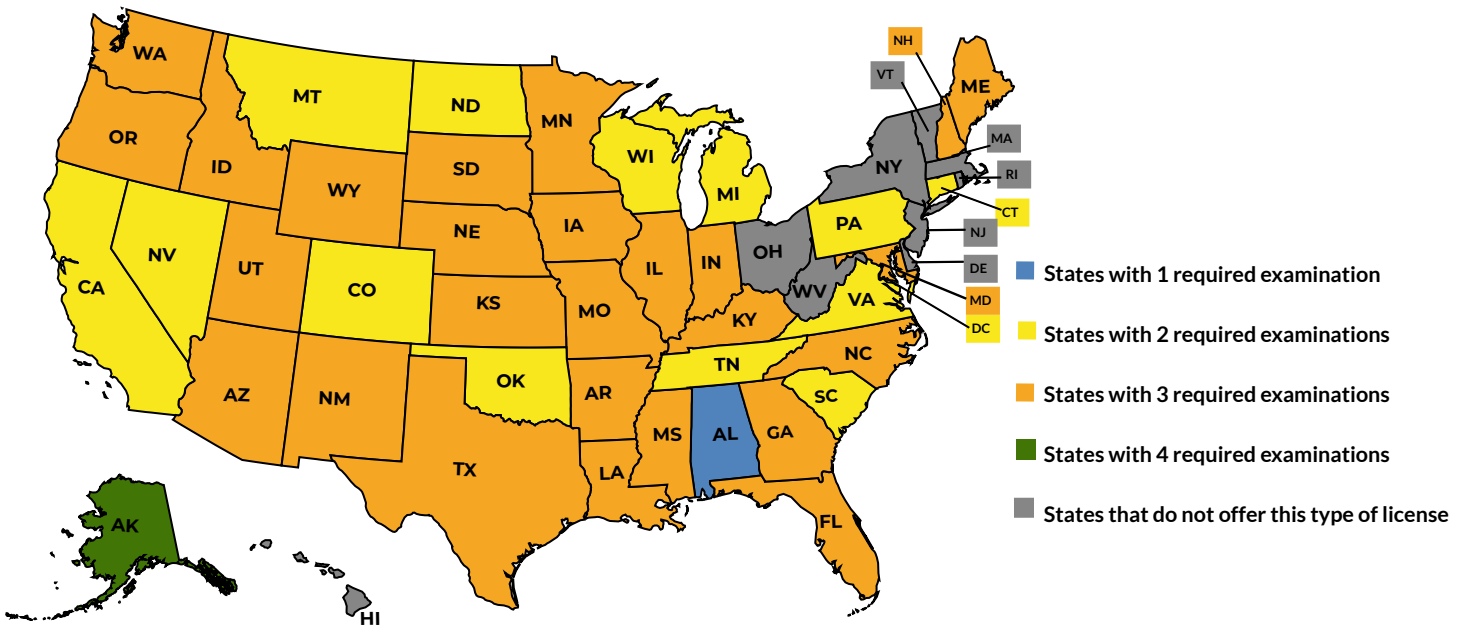
**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.

Optometrist – Therapeutic and Glaucoma

Degree Requirement

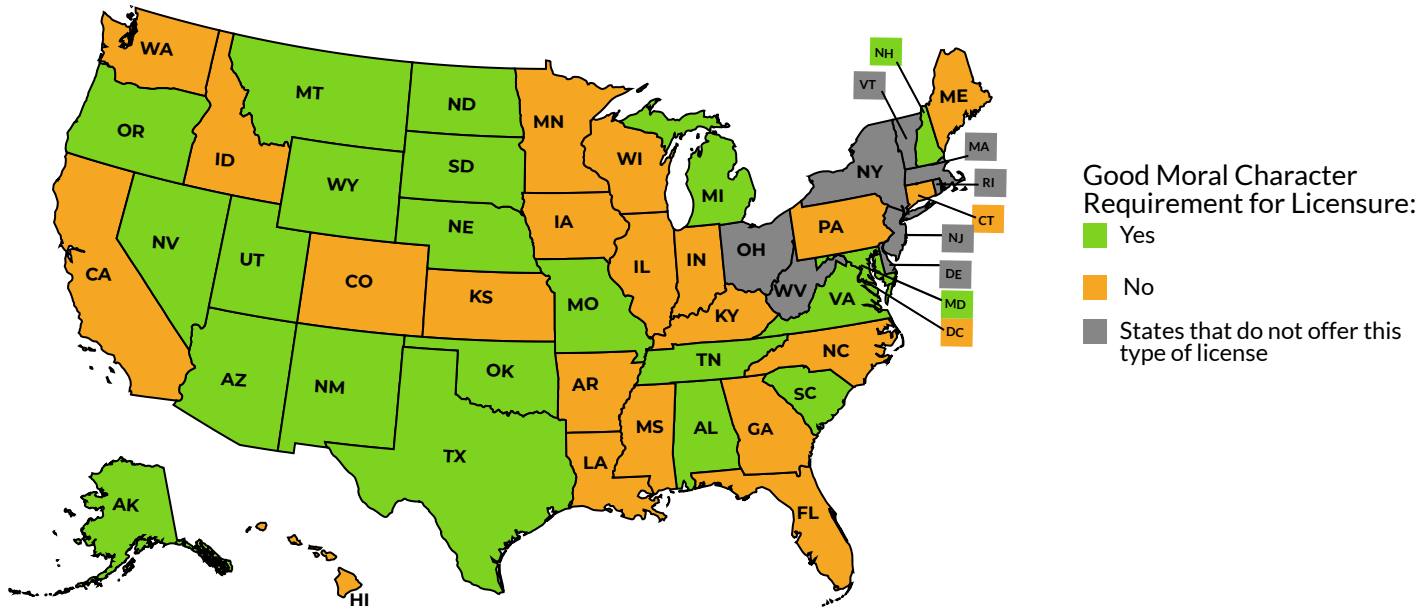


Examination Requirement

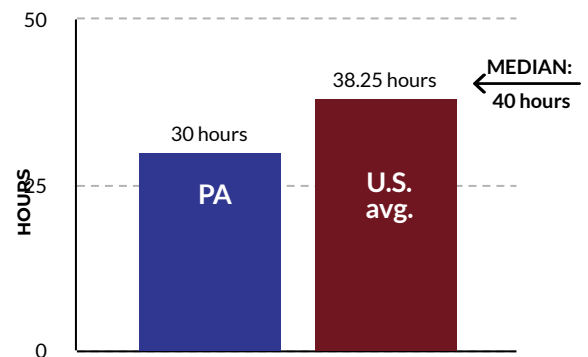
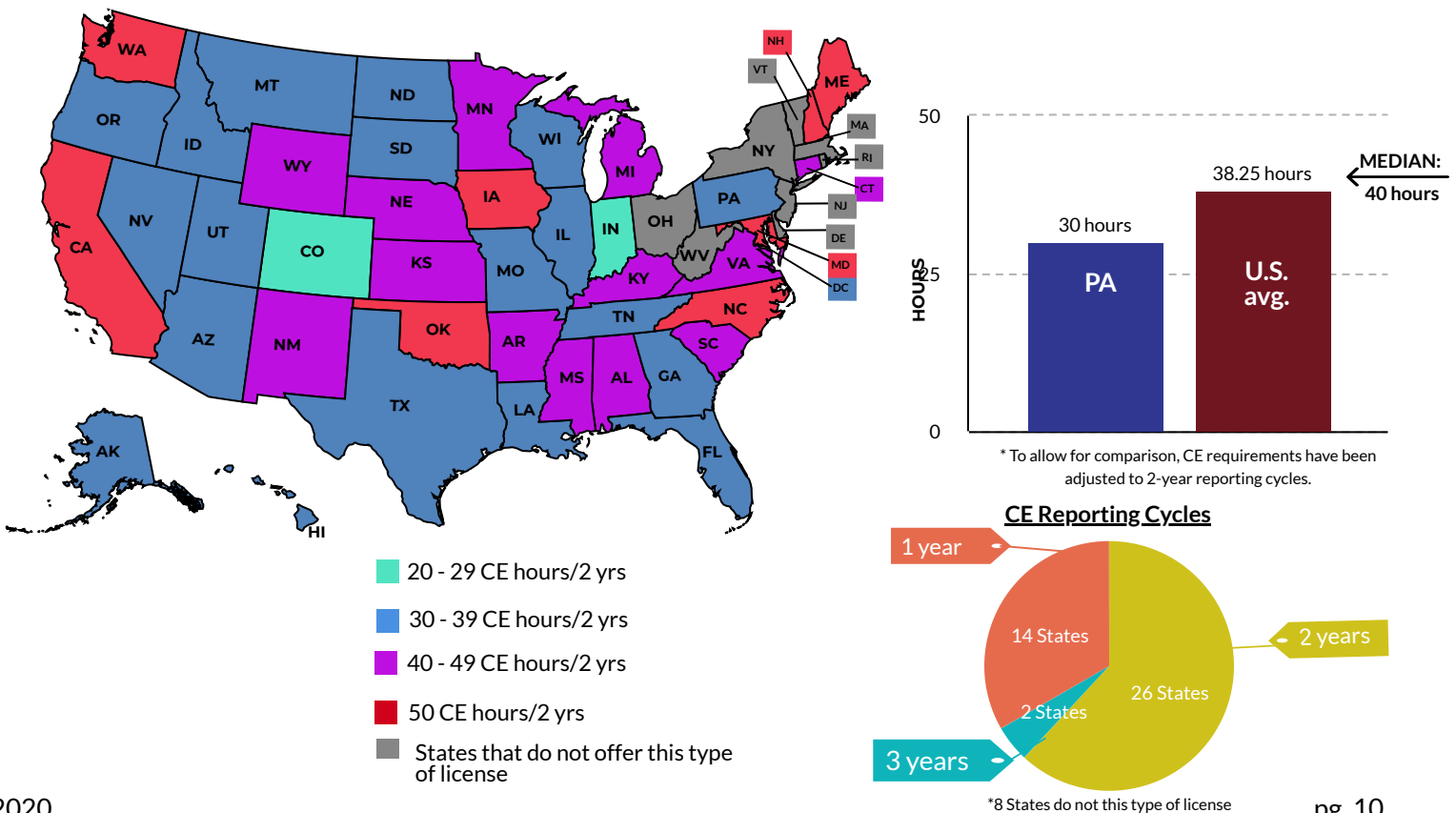


Optometrist – Therapeutic and Glaucoma

Good Moral Character Requirement



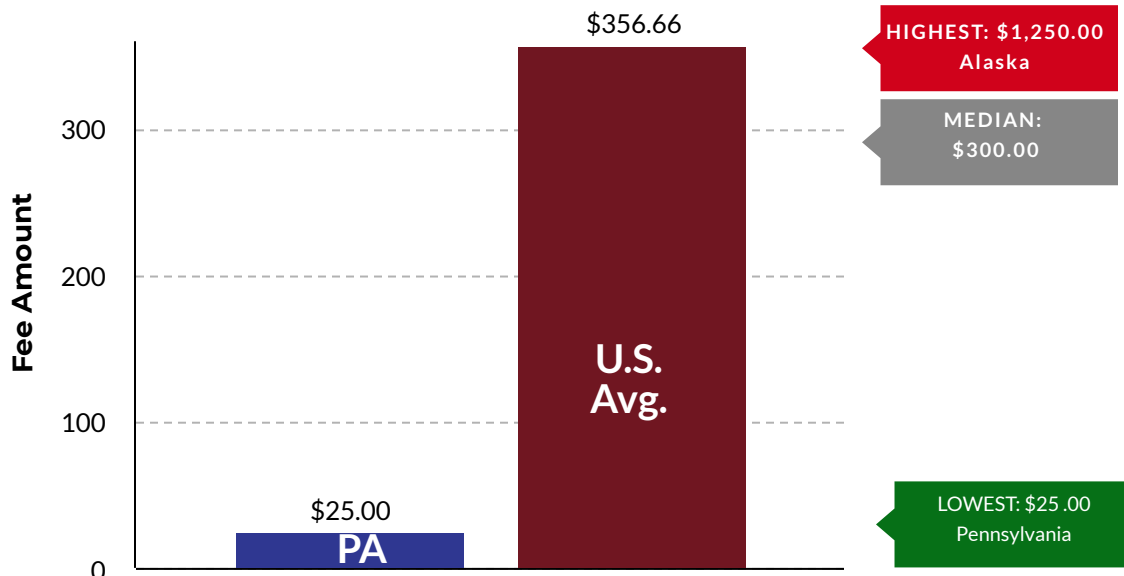
Continuing Education Requirement



*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

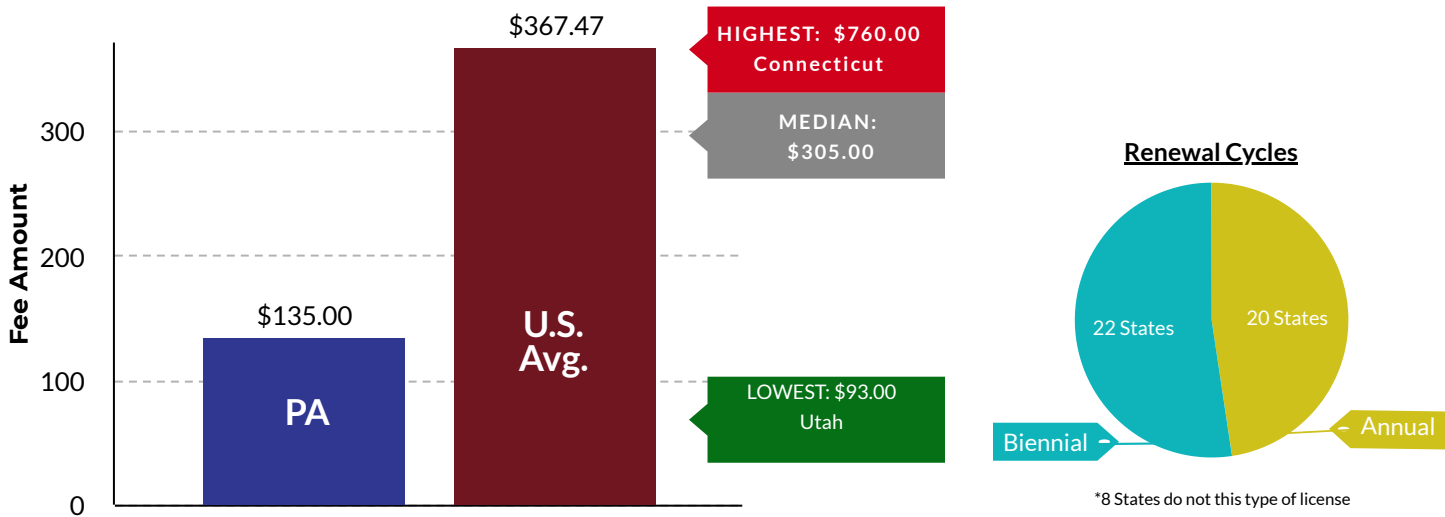
Optometrist – Therapeutic and Glaucoma

Initial Licensing Fee



* Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.

Renewal Fees



*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

Optometrist – Therapeutic & Glaucoma

States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

<u>Endorsement</u>	<u>Reciprocity</u>	<u>Not Specified in Legislation</u>
Arizona	Alabama	California
Arkansas	Delaware	Maine
Colorado	Florida	Oklahoma
Connecticut	Hawaii	Oregon
District of Columbia	Kansas	
Georgia	Massachusetts	
Idaho	Mississippi	
Illinois	Nebraska	
Indiana	Pennsylvania**	
Iowa		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maryland		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nevada		
	<u>Credentials</u>	
	Alaska	
		<u>States that do not license</u>
		Delaware
		Massachusetts
		New Jersey
		New York
		Ohio
		Rhode Island
		Vermont
		West Virginia

**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licenses coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.

Observation Section

Training / Experience Requirements for Optometrist, Optometrist - Diagnostic, Optometrist - Therapeutic, and Optometrist - Therapeutics and Glaucoma:

Optometrist:

- **Arkansas** - The applicant must complete an internship that consist of at least 100 hours of supervised clinical training under the supervision of a board-certified ophthalmologist
- **California** - Be certified by an accredited school of optometry that the applicant has completed 10 hours of experience with an ophthalmologist
- **Colorado** - 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and appendages
- **District of Columbia** - For at least 10% of supervised practice during any 1 month period, a supervising optometrist or ophthalmologist be physically with the student and either discussing or observing the student's practice
- **Florida** - Complete at least 110 hours of transcript quality course work and clinical training in general and ocular pharmacology. Applicant must complete at least 1 year of supervised experience in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the optometric experience
- **Louisiana** - 34 clock hours of supervised clinical training is a requirement for Certification to Treat Pathology and to Use and Prescribe Diagnostic and Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents

Therapeutic:

- **Delaware** - Internship period must consist of at least 35 hours per week for at least six months for licensure. 40 hours of supervised therapeutic experience required for Optometrist-Therapeutic licensure.
- **Hawaii** - Complete 100 hours of board-approved coursework in the treatment and management of ocular diseases and 100 hours of preceptorship under the supervision of an ophthalmologist
- **Massachusetts (Therapeutic)** - Complete 90 hours of didactic instruction and 30 hours of supervised clinical education relating to therapeutic pharmaceutical
- **New York (Therapeutic)** - Complete at least 300 hours of acceptable clinical training
- **Pennsylvania (Therapeutic)** - Complete 100 hours in the prescription and administration of pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes

Observation Section

Training / Experience Requirements for Optometrist, Optometrist - Diagnostic, Optometrist - Therapeutic, and Optometrist - Therapeutics and Glaucoma:

- **Connecticut (Diagnostic/Therapeutics & Glaucoma)** - 15 clinical hours under the supervision of an ophthalmologist. 51 clinical hours for Therapeutics & Glaucoma
- **Maine (Therapeutic/Glaucoma)** - Minimum of 100 hours of ocular therapeutics including at least 25 hours of supervised clinical training in the examination and treatment of conditions of the eye
- **Maryland (Diagnostic)** - Applicants are required to document 36 hours of supervised clinical training, of which 6 hours must be diagnostic. Applicants must provide current CPR certification
- **Tennessee (Optometrist/Therapeutics & Glaucoma)** - 40 clock hours of supervised clinical experience that is approved by the Board

Sources: State Licensing Boards

Alabama
<http://optometry.alabama.gov/>

Alaska
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofOptometry.aspx>

Arizona
<https://optometry.az.gov/>

Arkansas
<http://www.aroptometry.org/>

California
<http://www.optometry.ca.gov/index.shtml>

Colorado
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Optometry>

Connecticut
http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3121&q=397562&dphNav_GID=1821

Delaware
<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title24/2100.shtml>

District of Columbia
<https://doh.dc.gov/service/optometry-licensing>

Florida
<http://floridasoptometry.gov/licensing/>

Georgia
<http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/37>

Hawaii
<http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/optometry/>

Idaho
<https://ibol.idaho.gov/IBOL/BoardPage.aspx?Bureau=OPT>

Illinois
<https://www.idfpr.com/profs/optometry.asp>

Indiana
<https://www.in.gov/pla/opt.htm>

Iowa
<https://idph.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-Optometry>

Kansas
<http://www.kssbeo.ks.gov/>

Kentucky
<https://optometry.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Louisiana
<http://weoassociation.com/documents/7/RULESpracticingoptometry.pdf>

Maine
<http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professionsoptometry/index.html>

Maryland
<https://health.maryland.gov/optometry/Pages/index.aspx>

Massachusetts
<http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/op/>

Michigan
http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-72600_72603_27529_27546--,00.html

Minnesota
<https://mn.gov/boards/optometry/>

Mississippi
<http://www.msbo.ms.gov/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Missouri
<http://pr.mo.gov/optometrists>

Montana
<https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/opt#1?1>

Nebraska
http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-172/Chapter-120.pdf

Nevada
<https://nvoptometry.org/>

New Hampshire
<https://www.oplc.nh.gov/optometry/>

New Jersey
<http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/opt>

New Mexico
<http://www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/optometry.aspx>

New York
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/optom/>

North Carolina
<https://www.ncoptometry.org/examinations/applicant-information>

North Dakota
<http://www.ndoptometry.com/>

Ohio
<http://optometry.ohio.gov/license.stm>

Oklahoma
<https://optometry.ok.gov/>

Oregon
<http://www.oregon.gov/obo/pages/index.aspx>

Pennsylvania
<http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Optometry/Pages/default.aspx>

Rhode Island
<http://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=235>

South Carolina
<https://lir.sc.gov/ot/pub.aspx>

South Dakota
<https://doh.sd.gov/boards/optometry/>

Tennessee
<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/opt-board.html>

Texas
<http://www.tob.state.tx.us/>

Utah
<https://dopl.utah.gov/licensing/optometry.html>

Vermont
<https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/optometry.aspx>

Virginia
<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/optometry/>

Washington
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/Optomtrist>

West Virginia
<http://www.wvbo.org/>

Wisconsin
<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/Optomtrist/Default.aspx>

Wyoming
<http://optometry.wyo.gov/>