

Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry
FAQs for 2026 Optometry License Renewal

**Continuing Education Courses for 2026 Renewal must be earned from
July 1-2024 – June 30, 2026, to count toward your 2026 Renewal**

Maryland Optometrist licenses are renewed online every two years. Licensees are required to complete 50 continuing education (CE) credits for TPA certification renewal (CE) and 36 continuing education credits for DPA certification, as well as a one-time implicit bias training, a one-time structural racism training, and a criminal history records check. Renewals must be completed within 60 days of the license expiration date.

1. When will the renewal period begin and end?

- The renewal period will begin April 30, 2026, at 12:00 A.M.
- The renewal period will end June 30, 2026 at 11:59 P.M.
- Renewal applications submitted on or after July 1, 2026 at 12:00 A.M. will be assessed a \$100.00 late fee.

2. I will be renewing my license for the first time, do I need continuing education credits?

- If you graduated in **2025** and submitted your application with a year of your graduation date, you are only required to complete the following for your first renewal:
 - Complete the online renewal application
 - Pay \$626.00
 - Complete CPR
 - Complete Implicit Bias Training
 - Complete Structural Racism Training
 - Complete Criminal History Records Check
- After your first renewal, you are required to earn the number of continuing education (CE) requirements specific to your type of license, (COMAR 10.28.02.05C (2)).

3. I was licensed in another state prior to receiving my license in Maryland and I have held my license for less than 18 months, am I required to complete CEs for my first renewal in Maryland?

- Yes, your CEs will be prorated based on the number of months that you have had an active license in Maryland.
 - o You are still required to complete an Implicit Bias Training
 - o Structural Racism Training
 - o CPR
 - o Criminal History Records Check
- For information regarding your prorated CEs contact the Board at 410-764-4710. or by email at: mdh.optometry@maryland.gov

4. Where can I find approved Implicit Bias and Structural Racism Training courses?

- Approved courses for Implicit Bias and Structural Racism can be found on the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities website at <https://health.maryland.gov/mddh>. Courses completed through ACCME (Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education) are acceptable for Implicit Bias and Structural Racism Training, courses should be specific to Implicit Bias, and the Structural Racism course must be specific to Structural Racism Training.

5. I completed an Implicit Bias Training for my renewal in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. Am I required to complete another Implicit Bias course?

- No, if you completed a Board approved Implicit Bias Training previously you are not required to complete it again, this is a one-time requirement. However, if you are audited you will need to submit a certificate of completion, to show that you have met the requirements for Implicit Bias Training as well as your **Structural Racism Training** requirement.

6. What happens if I do not renew my license from April 30, 2026 – June 30, 2026?

- If you do not renew your license during the renewal cycle, you will have a 30-day grace period from July 1, 2026 -July 30, 2026, to renew your license. You will be required to pay a \$100.00 late fee. **The late renewal date begins on July 1, 2026, at 12:00 AM. Midnight, and ends on July 30, 2026, at 11:59 P.M. CEs earned toward the current renewal cycle can not be used to carry over to the next renewal cycle.**

7. What happens if I do not renew my license during the 30-day grace period?

- If you do not renew your license during the 30-day grace period, your license will go into non-renewed status, you will be required to reinstate your license and following requirements for reinstating your license.

8. What are the requirements for reinstating my license shortly after the renewal period ends?

- Complete a reinstatement application
- Submit required CEs for reinstatement
- Pay the Renewal and Reinstatement fee
- Complete a Criminal History Records Check, (if you have not previously completed)
- Complete CPR
- Complete Implicit Bias and Structural Racism Training (if you have not completed)

9. Where can I find CE courses for renewal?

- Review COMAR 10.28.02.05 – Required Credit and Other Course Credit
- For a Maryland Optometry license, you can obtain continuing education (CE) from **Board – approved providers or professional organizations**. Please review COMAR 10.28.02.05 – Required Credit and other Course Credit.

10. I live in the State of Maryland, I received the Pre-Registration Live Scan form. What information do I need to complete the form:

- Complete the top portion of the form with your address
- Reason for Request – You can leave blank
- Mailing Information – Include your home address
- The Authorization and ORI number should already be listed on the form.
- Check the box on the Live Scan form for Government Licensing or Certification if this box is not checked.
- Agency Authorization Number 2400006840
- ORI Number MD920550Z
- Position Applied – Optometry License Renewal

11. I live out of state, what is the process to complete a criminal history records check?

- You should have received a pink card in the mail; the card should be taken to a fingerprint vendor in your state where you currently live to have your fingerprints completed and placed on the card.
- You will pay the vendor their fee
- Mail the fingerprint card to the address to CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Central Repository)
- Mail Cashier's Check or personal check (\$30.00) to CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Central Repository) with the pink card.
- After CJIS processes your State and FBI background check, the results will be sent to Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry.

12. What is the cost to renew my license?

- The cost to renew your license is \$600.00 to include a \$26.00 MHCC fee for a total of \$626.00.

13. Where do I go to have my fingerprints completed in Maryland?

- There are approved vendor locations in Maryland to complete your fingerprints.
- To locate vendors, go to the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections website at <https://dpscomaryland.gov> Once you are on the website, in the search box type Fingerprinting Services, this will take you to the website that will provide information where to find vendors in your area. The Fingerprinting services website is <https://dpscomaryland.gov/publicservs/fingerprint.shtml> scroll down the page and look in the middle of the page until you see the following information. **Fingerprinting Service Provider Locator, this is where you will type in your zip code to find a local vendor in Maryland.**

14. I live in another state, and I have not received the Pink Card required to submit my fingerprints, what should I do?

- Call or email Board staff to request that a card be mailed out to you. Please make sure your address information is up to date in the Board's licensing system.

15. I went to have my fingerprints completed and the vendor could not locate Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry in their system, what should I do?

- Please suggest to the vendor to call the Criminal Justice Central Repository in Maryland during business hours at 410-764-4501, for assistance, or by email at cjis.customerservice@maryland.gov
- Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry staff can't assist with issues between CJIS and the vendor and their fingerprinting equipment.

16. Can I mail my fingerprint card and payment to the Board?

- No, please do not mail your pink fingerprint card to the Board, we do not process fingerprints. The card will be mailed back to you, which may delay the processing of your renewal application.

17. Are there any forms that I need to submit to the Board after completing my fingerprints?

- Yes, you will need to read, sign and date two forms and mail or email to the Board.
 - **Applicant Record Notification form**
 - **Privacy Act Statement/Noncriminal Justice form**

18. For the two-year renewal cycle, how many CEs are required for renewal?

- TPA 50 CEs COPE/Board Approved
- DPA 36 CEs COPE/Board Approved
- No certification License Number only - 36 CEs (COPE/Board Approved)

19. Does the 10 hours live in person still apply in Maryland?

- No, a licensee is no longer required to attend a live in person in Maryland, it is optional. All CEs can be earned online.

20. I want to take an online class, by asynchronous means, is this acceptable to earn CE credits for my renewal?

- Yes, the course should be COPE/Board approved, a post test must be completed for asynchronous training.

21. I am ready to submit my renewal application and payment. Can I submit my application before I complete my fingerprints, Structural Racism Training and Implicit Bias Training?

- No, you should not submit your application until all CEs are completed for your renewal and you can attest on your application that you have completed your criminal history records check, your Structural Racism Training.

22. When is the last day before renewal ends that I should complete my fingerprints?

- **Licensees who live outside of State** should complete their fingerprints no later than April 30, 2026, and mail the pink card in plenty of time so that the Board receives their results before the next Board meeting in May.
- **Licensees who live in the State of Maryland** should complete their fingerprints no later than April 30, 2026, so that Board staff have time to review the results before the next Board meeting in May.