

Subject: _____
comments
Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2011 9:56:13 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the issue of changes in minimum-entry qualifications for registration as an optometrist. As a therapeutically qualified optometrist I look forward to expanding clinical knowledge and consequently improving the level of patient care in our industry. However there are as always delicate and practical issues to be considered before venturing in this decision making process.

I believe that the main concern would be that older optometrists with limited remaining practicing years may find that doing the therapeutics course is not worth while. Given this, the board could set an age criteria in which the therapeutic course should be made compulsory. Extending this, the board can also set a more dynamic time frame to implement the change. For example if the board expects 80% of optometrists will be therapeutically qualified by 2014, why not let this progress naturally, then implement the changes. This can potentially reduce congestion in the academic system and any adverse feelings towards the increasing pressure of a deadline as a result of an inflexible system.

I hope the above comments and opinion is helpful to you.

Sincerely yours
Lona Zhang