Policy Title: **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)** **Applies to: Opticianry**	**Replaces former policy:** ☒ Title: COBC Registration Policy ☐N/A
	Date Effective: 2024-06-28
	Last Update: 2024-02-08
Contact: Name of Policy Owner	

Policy Statement:

For the purposes of application for registration, the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process administered by the National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR) constitutes an assessment approved by the Registration Committee in accordance with Schedule 4, 1.7 and 2.8, and Schedule 10, 1.5 of the CHCPBC Bylaws. Completion of PLAR is considered substantially equivalent to completion of a Canadian opticianry education program approved by the College, as both meet the standards of academic achievement and the entry-to-practice competencies or other qualifications established under the Bylaw.

An Applicant to the Designated Health Profession of Opticianry who applies through the PLAR process (a "PLAR Applicant") completes their PLAR assessments under NACOR supervision and pays the associated fees directly to NACOR.

After the PLAR Applicant has completed the PLAR assessments, NACOR provides the College with a score card. Upon review of the score card, the Registrar or a College delegate may process the PLAR Applicant's application by:

- Deeming them eligible to proceed to the National Licensing Examination(s), or

- Assigning the applicable bridging module(s) for the competency domain(s) in which the PLAR Applicant scored "Below."

If the score card indicates that assignment of at least 85% of the modules related to a single "practical skill" area (i.e., Eyeglasses & Low Vision, Contact Lenses, and/or Refracting) will be needed to address the gaps in the PLAR Applicant's knowledge related to that area, the application must be reviewed by the Registration Committee to determine whether modules will provide sufficient remediation, or whether additional education may be necessary.

Assigned bridging modules must be completed within one year of being assigned.

The College may communicate with a PLAR Applicant regarding their PLAR results as needed. A PLAR Applicant who requires more than one year to complete their assigned bridging may request an extension from the Registration Committee.

1. Policy Rationale and Purpose:

This policy ensures consistency in the processing of applications to the Designated Health Profession of Opticianry from individuals who have not completed a Canadian opticianry education program approved by the College for the purposes of registration. It also provides alignment with opticianry regulatory authorities across Canada, in accordance with the Mutual Recognition Agreement Among Opticianry Regulators, in assessing Applicants at the entry-to-practice level.

2. Policy Scope:

This policy applies, unless otherwise dictated by the Registration Committee, to any Canadian- or internationally trained Applicant to the Designated Health Profession of Opticianry who has not graduated from a Canadian opticianry program approved by the College and who is not registered in good standing with another Canadian opticianry regulatory authority.

3. Legal Authority:

- *Health Professions Act*
- CHCPBC Bylaws, Schedule 4, 1.7 and 2.8, and Schedule 10, 1.5
- Mutual Recognition Agreement Among Opticianry Regulators

4. Key Partnerships:

- National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR)

5. Definitions:

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) – An assessment process consisting of online multiple-choice tests and learning modules (if applicable), used to determine whether an Applicant meets the entry-to-practice competencies of the opticianry profession.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) application – An application for registration from an individual who has not graduated from a Canadian opticianry education program approved by the College.

Bridging module – An interactive lesson on a specific opticianry topic, developed and hosted online by NACOR and assigned to a PLAR Applicant for the purpose of addressing a gap in knowledge or skills.

6. Process Check:

☒ Board Policy Framework
☐ Safe Spaces Playbook
☐ Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Resources/References:

- Resource Guide for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
- PLAR/CGA Validation Report

Reviewed by the Board on:		Select date	☒ N/A
Reviewed by the Registrar/Deputy Registrar on:		Select date	☐ N/A
Date Approved Select date	**Approved By** ☐ Board ☐ Committee (*Name of Committee*) OR Name *Full Name* Title *Title*		
Date Effective Select date **Next Review** Select date	**Revision history**	**Last Updated:** **Previous Update:** **Previous Update:**	2024-02-08 Select date Select date
Drafted by: Name *Name*		Title *Title*	