

**BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians met on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Perimeter Center, Board Room 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233. The following members were present for the meeting:

Deborah Bauer-Robertson  
Jon D. Bright  
Judith M. Canty  
Pamela S. Chavis, MD  
Edward L. DeGennaro  
Robert E. Flippin  
Mark Grohler  
Eric B. Hecker, PhD  
L. Frederick Lassen, MD  
Bonnie Mayhew  
Arva B. Priola  
Bruce R. Wagner

DPOR staff present for all or part of the meeting included:

Jay W. DeBoer, Director  
Mark N. Courtney, Senior Director/Regulatory and Public Affairs  
Demetrios J. Melis, Executive Director  
Stephen Kirschner, Regulatory Operations Administrator  
Tamika Rodriguez, Licensing Operations Administrator  
Cathy Clark, Administrative Assistant

A representative from the Office of the Attorney General was present for the meeting.

Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

Dr. Hecker, Chair, determined that a quorum was present and called **Call to Order** the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Upon a motion by Ms. Canty and seconded by Mr. Flippin, the Board **Approval of Agenda** moved to adopt the agenda.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Bright and seconded by Ms. Bauer-Robertson, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2015 Board meeting and the August 19, 2015 Ad Hoc Committee on Optician Apprenticeships meeting

**Approval of Minutes:  
August 19, 2015  
Board for Hearing  
Aid Specialists and  
Opticians Meeting  
and August 19, 2015  
Ad Hoc Committee  
on Optician  
Apprenticeships**

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hecker asked for public comments.

**Public Comment**

Michelle Nelms, Executive Director of the Opticians Association of Virginia, addressed the Board to offer recommendations for a future RFP to select an Optician practical examination.

The Board took Ms. Nelms' comments under advisement.

There were no additional public comments.

In the matter of **File Number 2015-03072, Edward J. Johnson**, the Board reviewed the record which consisted of the application file, transcript, exhibits, and the Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference.

**File Number 2015-  
03072, Edward J.  
Johnson**

Upon a motion by Mr. Flippin and seconded by Ms. Canty, the Board voted to accept the recommendation in the Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference and approve Edward J. Johnson's Optician license application.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. The member abstaining was Mr. DeGennaro. There were no negative votes. The motion passed by a majority.

In the matter of **File Number 2016-00937, George McNeil, Jr.**, the Board reviewed the record which consisted of the application file, transcript, exhibits, and the Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference.

**File Number 2016-  
00937, George  
McNeil, Jr.**

Upon a motion by Mr. Grohler and seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board voted to accept the recommendation in the Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference and approve George McNeil, Jr.'s Hearing Aid Specialist license application.

The members voting ‘yes’ were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Melis introduced Shannon Webster, the new Examinations Director, to the Board.

**Introduction of New Staff**

Mr. Kirschner reviewed Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians licensing and examination statistics with the Board.

**Statistics**

**(See Addendum 1)**

**Old Business**

Edward J. Johnson appeared at the meeting in person and addressed the Board concerning his case.

**Comments from Applicants with Cases**

George McNeil, Jr. appeared at the meeting in person and addressed the Board concerning his case.

Mr. Kirschner reported on the three regulatory packages that are moving through the regulatory process: Fee adjustments for both Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians; and amended regulations for Hearing Aid Specialists.

**Regulations**

Mr. Kirschner advised the Board that all three regulatory packages have been approved by the Governor and the Public Comment period is now open. A public hearing will be held on December 16, 2015, and the Public Comment period will end on December 18, 2015. The Regulations will be reviewed by the Board at its next scheduled meeting on April 20, 2016. Mr. Kirschner further advised the Board that the Governor has asked that the Board review revenue projections for the coming years with regard to the proposed fee adjustments.

Mr. Kirschner reported to the Board that the Public Comment Period for the periodic and small business impact review for its public participation guidelines and regulations had ended on November 9, 2015 with no public comments received. The Board was advised that it could vote to retain the regulations ‘as is’ or move to review the regulations further for potential changes.

Upon a motion by Mr. DeGennaro and seconded by Dr. Chavis, the Board voted to retain the public participation guidelines and regulations ‘as is.’

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kirschner advised the Board that no public comments have been received to-date regarding the Hearing Aid Specialists Regulations and Opticians Regulations.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Grohler, the Board voted to retain 'as is' the Hearing Aid Specialist Regulations, which are currently under a general review.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Flippen and seconded by Ms. Canty, the Board voted to retain the Optician Regulations 'as is.'

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kirschner reported on the August 18, 2015 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Optician Apprenticeships, stating that the revisions to the Standards of Apprenticeship were nearly complete and that the Work Processes had been finalized. He advised the Board that the Committee will continue to work on NAO related instruction and the development of a training video, and that the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee has been tentatively scheduled for January 12, 2016.

**Ad Hoc Committee  
on Optician  
Apprenticeships  
Report**

Mr. Melis reported to the Board that the RFP (Request for Proposals) for the Optician practical examination procurement has been canceled and will not be pursued at this time. The Board and staff engaged in a discussion of the RFP and concerns that had been raised during the process. Mr. Melis indicated that DPOR was looking into having the current examination professionally reviewed.

**Cancellation of the  
Practical Exam  
Procurement Process**

Mr. Melis advised the Board of the proposed Optician practical examination dates for 2016. Practical examinations will be administered in March, August, and December 2016. A June 2016 examination will not take place due to scheduled construction at the examination site.

**2016 Optician  
Practical Exam Dates**

Upon a motion by Ms. Bauer-Robertson and seconded by Mr. Flippin, the Board voted to accept the schedule of three practical examination dates for 2016.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

Mr. Kirschner reviewed the examiner selection procedure for Hearing Aid Specialist examiners, which was presented to the Board at its August 19, 2015 meeting. Mr. Kirschner recapped that potential examiners would submit a written request and his/her qualifications to Board staff for review. Staff would then present the examiner candidates to the Board for its approval.

**Hearing Aid  
Specialist  
Examination –  
Examiner Selection  
Procedure**

After discussion and upon a motion by Dr. Lassen, which was seconded by Mr. Grohler, the Board voted to accept the proposed procedure for selecting Hearing Aid Specialist examiners.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Bauer-Robertson, Mr. Bright, Ms. Canty, Dr. Chavis, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Flippin, Mr. Grohler, Dr. Hecker, Dr. Lassen, Ms. Mayhew, Ms. Priola, and Mr. Wagner. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business to be brought before the Board, Dr. Hecker adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

**Adjourn**

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Eric B. Hecker, PhD, Chair

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Jay W. DeBoer, Secretary

**Addendum 1 – Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Board Statistics and Examination Statistics**

**Licenses & Temporary Permits Issued – 8-16-2015 through 12-14-2015**

Hearing Aid Specialists by Exam	29
Hearing Aid Specialists by Reciprocity	0
Hearing Aid Specialists Temporary Permits	25
Optician by Exam	12
Optician by Reciprocity	0
CLE by Exam	1
CLE by Reciprocity	0
Optician License App Criminal History Review (Pass Matrix)	0

**Regulant Population as of 12-1-2015**

Hearing Aid Specialist Temp Permits	76
Hearing Aid Specialists	656
Opticians	1924

**Complaints – 4-1-2015 through 8-15-2015**

New Complaints Received – Hearing Aid Specialists	3
New Complaints Received – Opticians	0
Complaints Pending – Hearing Aid Specialists	0
Complaints Pending – Opticians	0
Complaints Closed – Hearing Aid Specialists	3
Complaints Closed – Opticians	0

**HEARING AID SPECIALISTS**

**GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT - PRACTICAL**

EXAM DATE	TOTAL			FIRST TIME			RE-EXAM			TOTAL EXAMINEES SCHEDULED
	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	
10/14/2015	42	28	66.66%	32	28	87.50%	11	6	54.54%	42

CONTENT DESCRIPTION	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED
AUDIOMETRIC	26	13	50.00%
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	32	29	90.62%
SPEECH TESTING	21	14	66.66%
EARMOLD IMPRESSIONS	32	30	93.75%

**HEARING AID SPECIALISTS**

**GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT - WRITTEN**

EXAM DATE	CONTENT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL		
		EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED
11/9/2015	RULES & REGULATIONS	38	30	78.94%
11/9/2015	HAS THEORY	44	29	65.90%

**OPTICIANS**

**GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT - WRITTEN**

EXAM DATE	TOTAL			FIRST TIME			RE-EXAM			TOTAL EXAMINEES SCHEDULED
	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	
11/07/2015	05	02	40.00%	05	02	40.00%	0	0	00.00	05

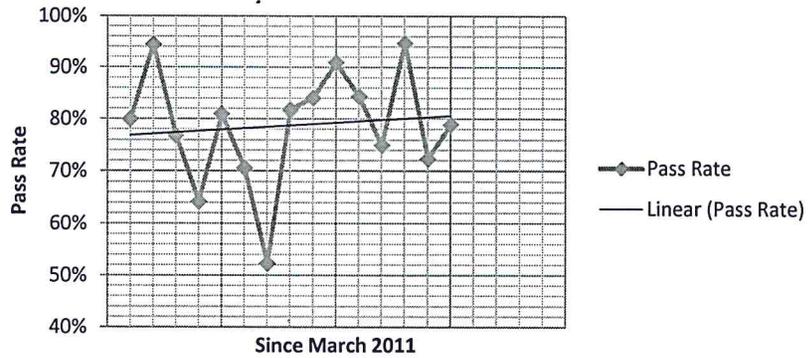
**GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT – PRACTICAL**

EXAM DATE	TOTAL			FIRST TIME			RE-EXAM			TOTAL EXAMINEES SCHEDULED
	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	
12/04/2015	11	02	18.18%	10	02	20.00%	1	0	00.00	11

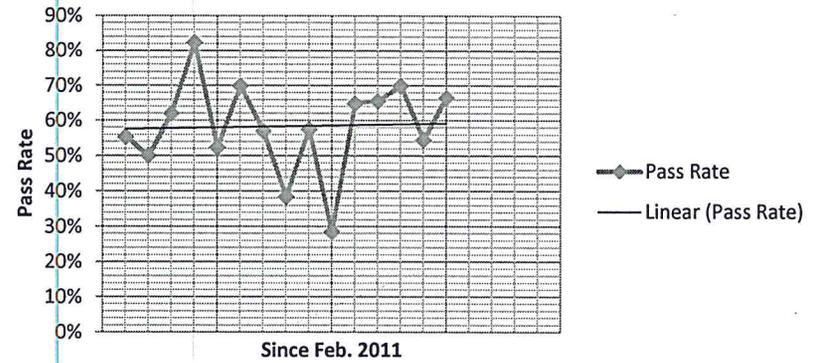
CONTENT DESCRIPTION	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED
ADJUSTING AND BENCH EDGING	11	04	36.36%
SPECTACLE ANALYSIS PAIR I	11	05	45.45%
SPECTACLE ANALYSIS PAIR II	11	03	27.27%
WRITTEN	05	02	40.00%
SPECTACLE ANALYSIS PAIR III	11	03	27.27%
LENS IDENTIFICATIONS	11	10	90.90%
SCHOOL	00	00	00.00%
APPRENTICESHIP	11	02	18.18%
FINISHING LAYOUT	11	04	36.36%

# Hearing Aid Specialist Exam Trends

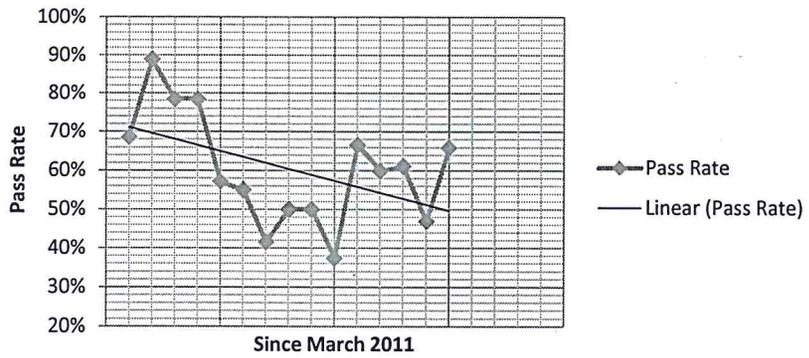
## Rules and Regs



## Practical



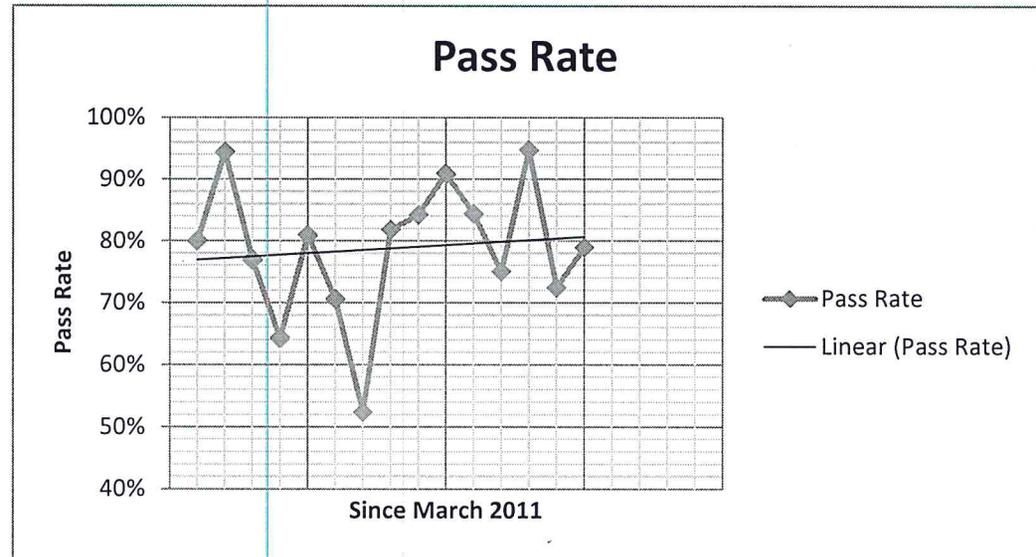
## ILE



# Hearing Aid Specialist Exam Pass Rates

## Hearing Aid Specialist Written - Rules & Regs

Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
3/11	15	12	80%
7/11	18	17	94%
11/11	26	20	77%
3/12	14	9	64%
7/12	21	17	81%
11/12	17	12	71%
3/13	21	11	52%
7/13	22	18	82%
11/13	19	16	84%
3/14	11	10	91%
7/14	32	27	84%
11/14	28	21	75%
3/15	19	18	95%
7/15	29	21	72%
11/15	38	30	79%



# Hearing Aid Specialist Exam Pass Rates

## Hearing Aid Specialist Written - ILE

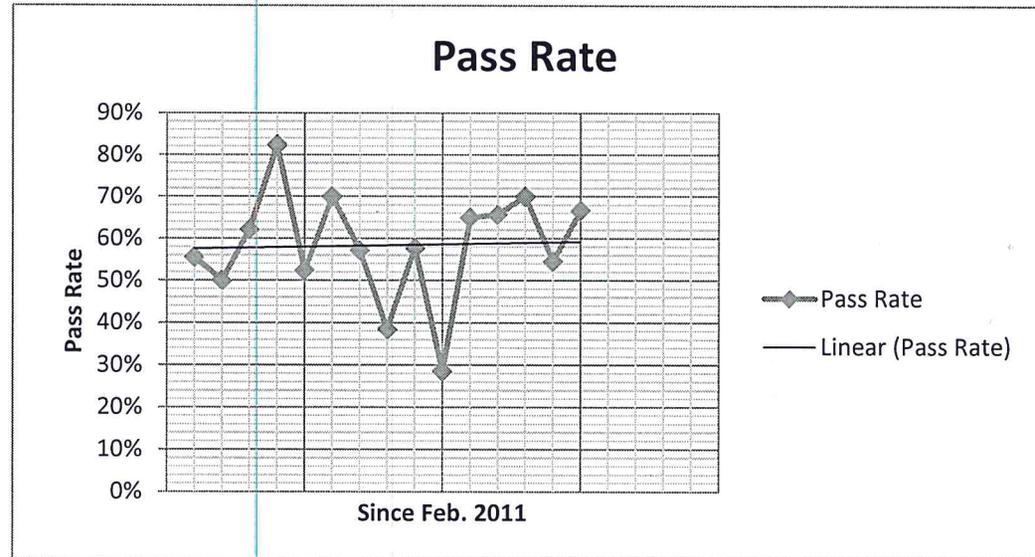
Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
3/11	16	11	69%
7/11	18	16	89%
11/11	28	22	79%
3/12	14	11	79%
7/12	21	12	57%
11/12	20	11	55%
3/13	24	10	42%
7/13	24	12	50%
11/13	22	11	50%
3/14	16	6	38%
7/14	36	24	67%
11/14	30	18	60%
3/15	18	11	61%
7/15	34	16	47%
11/15	44	29	66%



# Hearing Aid Specialist Exam Pass Rates

## Hearing Aid Specialist Practical

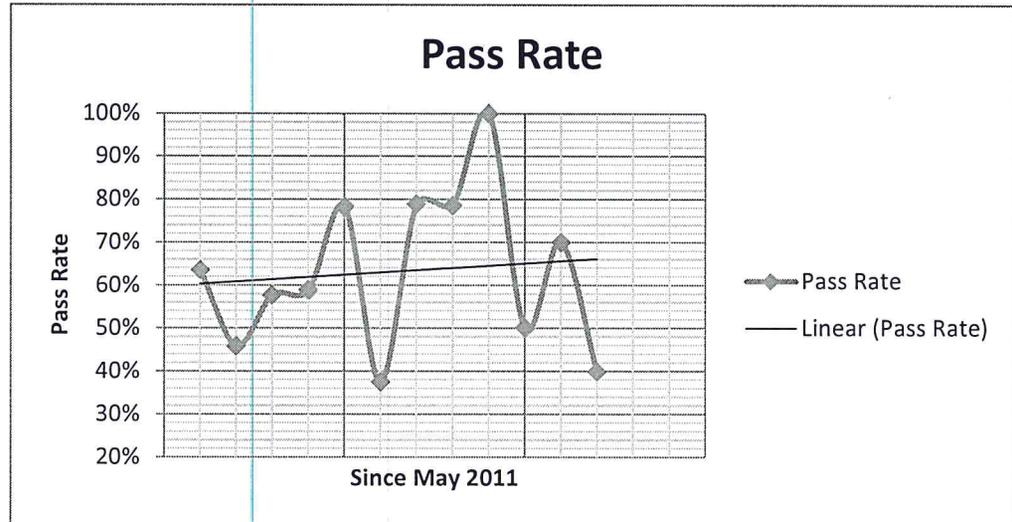
Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
2/11	18	10	56%
6/11	20	10	50%
10/11	37	23	62%
2/12	17	14	82%
6/12	21	11	52%
10/12	20	14	70%
2/13	21	12	57%
6/13	26	10	38%
10/13	26	15	58%
2/14	21	6	29%
6/14	40	26	65%
10/14	35	23	66%
2/15	20	14	70%
6/15	33	18	55%
10/15	42	28	67%



# Optician Exam Pass Rates

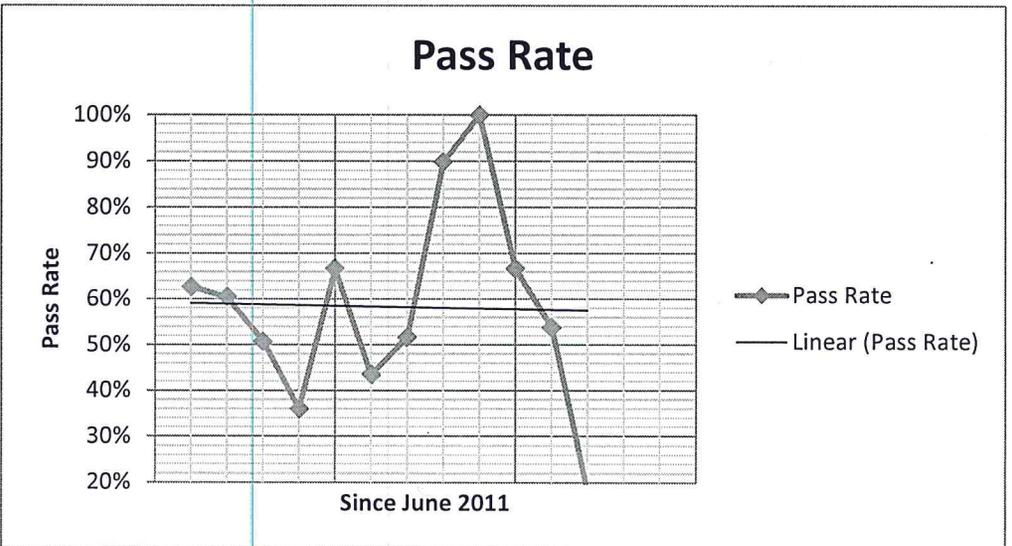
## Optician Written - ABO National

Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
May-11	44	28	64%
Nov-11	24	11	46%
May-12	52	30	58%
Nov-12	17	10	59%
May-13	46	36	78%
Nov-13	16	6	38%
May-14	33	26	79%
Nov-14	14	11	79%
Feb-15	5	5	100%
May-15	6	3	50%
Aug-15	10	7	70%
Nov-15	5	2	40%



## Optician Practical

Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
Jun-11	59	37	63%
Dec-11	43	26	60%
Jun-12	61	31	51%
Dec-12	25	9	36%
Jun-13	60	40	67%
Dec-13	23	10	43%
Jun-14	60	31	52%
Dec-14	39	35	90%
Mar-15	6	6	100%
Jun-15	6	4	67%
Sep-15	13	7	54%
Dec-15	11	2	18%

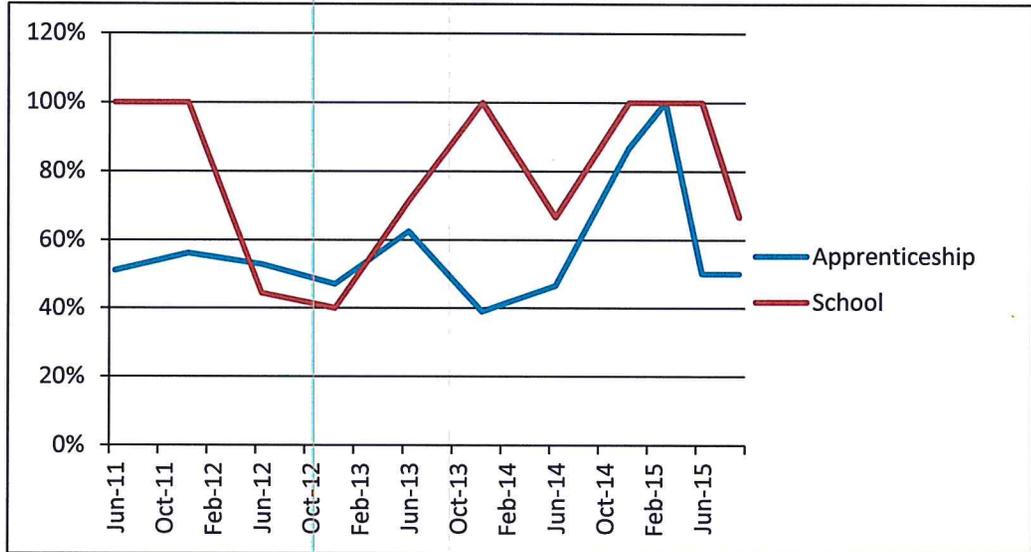


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# Optician Exam Apprenticeship vs. 2 Year Program Comparison

## Optician Practical - 2 Yr. Course

Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
Jun-11	14	14	100%
Dec-11	4	4	100%
Jun-12	9	4	44%
Dec-12	5	2	40%
Jun-13	14	10	71%
Dec-13	4	4	100%
Jun-14	18	12	67%
Dec-14	8	8	100%
Mar-15	1	1	100%
Jun-15	1	1	100%
Sep-15	3	2	67%



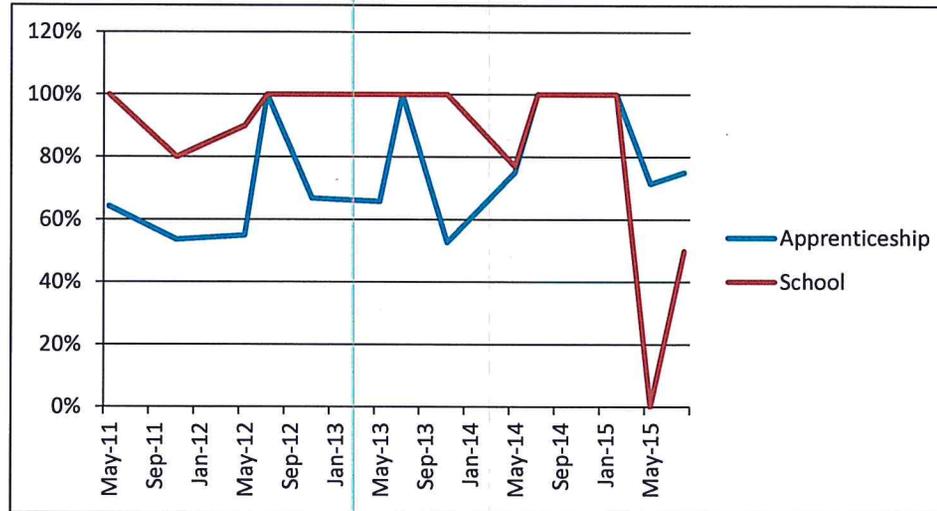
## Optician Practical - 3 Yr. Apprenticeship

Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
Jun-11	49	25	51%
Dec-11	41	23	56%
Jun-12	53	28	53%
Dec-12	17	8	47%
Jun-13	48	30	63%
Dec-13	18	7	39%
Jun-14	43	20	47%
Dec-14	30	26	87%
Mar-15	6	6	100%
Jun-15	6	3	50%
Sep-15	10	5	50%

# Optician Exam Apprenticeship vs. 2 Year Program Comparison

## Optician Written - 2 Yr. Course

Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
May-11	13	13	100%
Nov-11	5	4	80%
May-12	10	9	90%
Jul-12	0	0	100%
Nov-12	2	2	100%
May-13	13	13	100%
Jul-13	1	1	100%
Nov-13	1	1	100%
May-14	13	10	77%
Jul-14	0	0	100%
Nov-14	5	5	100%
Feb-15	0	0	100%
May-15	1	0	0%
Aug-15	2	1	50%



## Optician Written - 3 Yr. Apprenticeship

Exam Dates	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	% Passed
May-11	53	34	64%
Nov-11	28	15	54%
May-12	51	28	55%
Jul-12	2	2	100%
Nov-12	21	14	67%
May-13	32	21	66%
Jul-13	6	6	100%
Nov-13	19	10	53%
May-14	40	30	75%
Jul-14	1	1	100%
Nov-14	13	13	100%
Feb-15	3	3	100%
May-15	7	5	71%
Aug-15	8	6	75%