

## Frequently asked questions

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### Do I have to be in Canada to take PLAR?

No. The PLAR process is completed online, so you can do it from anywhere in the world. You do not need to be in Canada, and there is no need to submit any immigration documents with your PLAR application. However, to move to Canada and register as an optician, there are immigration requirements; it is your responsibility to ensure you meet these requirements.

### What province should I choose for PLAR if I'm not living in Canada yet?

Choose the province that you plan to live and work in. If you aren't sure which province that is yet, that's okay—just choose one you are considering. You can change your mind later in the process.

### Are there different requirements in different provinces?

Yes. If you select Ontario as your province, you will be required to complete assessments for both Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses. Only BC applicants may apply for Refracting.

### What if I require an accommodation in the PLAR process?

The application stage is the appropriate time to notify NACOR about any accommodations you may need due to disability or extenuating circumstances. You may be asked to provide documentation to support your need for an accommodation.

### What happens if my application is rejected during the document review?

If your application is rejected, you can still become an optician in Canada, but you will be required to complete a Canadian accredited education program.

### How much does PLAR cost?

The cost of PLAR varies based on which CGAs you apply to take. See [Payment of fees](#) in the main PLAR Resource Guide for details.

### How long do I have to schedule my CGA(s) after my document review is complete?

There is no deadline for scheduling your CGA(s). You can complete the PLAR process based on your own availability, whenever you feel confident that you are ready. Some applicants schedule their CGAs the same week they apply. Others choose to schedule the tests several weeks or even months in advance.

### How can I study for PLAR?

Although studying for PLAR is not mandatory, you may choose to prepare by taking the online knowledge self-assessment, working through bridging modules, or reviewing the National Competencies for Canadian Opticians. See [Appendix B](#) in the main PLAR Resource Guide for more information.

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### **What if I need to change the date or time of a PLAR test?**

If your availability changes, and you need to cancel or reschedule a CGA, please contact NACOR at least 24 hours before your scheduled start time at 1-866-949-1950 or [general@nacor.ca](mailto:general@nacor.ca).

### **How long will it take to receive my PLAR results?**

PLAR results are generally emailed within 1–2 weeks of your final CGA being completed.

### **What is the passing grade for PLAR?**

The CGAs are not marked as “pass” or “fail.” You will not receive a percentage score, a letter grade, or a number indicating how many questions you answered correctly.

Instead, you will receive a competency-based score card. The score card lists all of the different competencies or areas of opticianry that were covered on the test. Within each area, you’ll be given a score of AT or BELOW.

- A score of AT means you did well in that area (your skills and knowledge are “at” the required level).
- A score of BELOW means your knowledge and skills are “below” the required level, so you’ll need to complete one or more bridging modules and the associated post-test(s) in that area before you can proceed.

### **If I have three BELOW scores on my PLAR score card, does that mean I will be assigned three modules?**

Not always. All of the questions on the CGAs are linked to different competencies, and some questions link to multiple competencies. Similarly, some of the competencies are linked to multiple bridging modules. This means that you could be assigned two or three bridging modules for a single BELOW score.

### **How long do I have to complete my bridging module(s)?**

Bridging modules must be completed within one year of being assigned.

### **What is the passing grade for the bridging post-tests?**

You must achieve at least 80% to pass a bridging post-test.

### **Are the post-tests supervised?**

No. You will be provided with a link to complete the post-test at a time that works for you. The tests are “open-book,” which means you may access the corresponding bridging module while completing its post-test.

### **I’m done PLAR! Does this mean I am now a Canadian optician?**

No, not quite! You will still need to pass the national licensing exam(s) and complete your provincial registration.

### **Are the eligibility requirements for the national licensing exams the same in every province?**

Eligibility requirements for the national licensing exams vary from province to province. For more information on these requirements, visit [the NACOR website](#).

### **Is there a deadline for taking the national licensing exam(s)?**

Yes. After you have completed PLAR, you must pass the licensing exam(s) within three years.