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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*American Board of Optometry Announces Expiration of Phase-In Period
April 30, 2013, is Last Day to Apply Using Phase-In Rules*

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 7, 2011 — The American Board of Optometry (ABO) has announced the timetable for the expiration of the Phase-In Rules of the ABO's Board Certification process.

As directed by the profession, the American Board of Optometry began the process for optometric board certification with modified qualification rules of a 3-Year Phase-In Period. During this time, the following could be used toward the 150 points of Post-Graduate Requirements needed to qualify to register for the examination:

ACOE Accredited Residency	150 points (regardless of date of completion)
Fellow, American Academy of Optometry	50 points (regardless of date of completion)
Fellow, College of Optometrists in Vision Development	50 points (regardless of date of completion)
Experience in Active Clinical Practice	5 points per year of Active Clinical Practice

After April of 2013, the following modifications to the qualification requirements take effect:

ACOE Accredited Residency	150 points if completed less than 3 years ago, or 100 points if completed 3-10 years ago. (No points if completed more than 10 years ago)
Fellow, American Academy of Optometry	50 points if completed within 10 years (No points if completed more than 10 years ago)
Fellow, College of Optometrists in Vision Development	No longer accepted.
Experience in Active Clinical Practice	No longer accepted.

Requirements for Category 1 and 2 Education will remain unchanged.

For ABO Active Candidates to qualify under the rules of the phase-in period, they must apply to become an Active Candidate *no later than April 30, 2013*, submit their post-graduate requirements for verification by the ABO *no later than June 30, 2013*, then take the ABO Board Certification Examination *no later than January 2014*.

In order for the ABO to verify the active candidate's credentials and post graduate requirements, and allow better seat selection at a testing center nearby, the ABO recommends beginning the initial application no later than 90 days prior to the starting date of the examination desired by the candidate. Note that January 2014 is the date of the last exam using Phase-In rules. There

are three earlier exam dates (see below), which the ABO strongly encourages candidates to take advantage of!

Upcoming Exam Dates for the initial 3 year Phase-In are as follows:

2012 July 15-31

2013 January* and July*

2014 January*

* exact dates to be announced

For additional information on the process, please see the Get Certified tab on the ABO web site at **www.abopt.org**.

About the American Board Optometry (ABO)

*The American Board of Optometry was founded in 2009 by the American Academy of Optometry, American Optometric Association, American Optometric Student Association and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. For more information, please visit **www.americanboardofoptometry.org**.*

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