

To provide the same opportunity for residents in optometry, NAVAO approached NBEO for its expertise in clinical assessment. The resulting collaboration led to NBEO development of the ACMO examination, with NAVAO involvement to ensure the test's relevance to clinical experience.

The NBEO's ACMO Case Authors and Examination Development Committee include senior clinicians and Residency Program supervisors, most all of whom have taken and passed ACMO. Their extensive experience, expertise, and direct involvement with residency training contribute significantly to ACMO's close correspondence with the clinical cases of advanced competence in medical optometry.

## Applications

The 2012 administration of ACMO will be on Friday, June 1. To register online and to review ACMO-related information, visit the NBEO website: [http://www.optometry.org/acmo\\_description.cfm](http://www.optometry.org/acmo_description.cfm).

All eligible candidates are encouraged to sit for ACMO. It is offered only once per year. Successful candidates receive a certificate from the NBEO as acknowledgment of passing this advanced competence examination.

### *For Additional Information:*

**NAVAO**

[www.navao.org](http://www.navao.org)

**ABCMO**

[www.abcmo.org](http://www.abcmo.org)

The American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) uses the passing of ACMO in its Board Certification process.

**NBEO**

Dr. Jack E. Terry  
*Executive Director*

[terry@optometry.org](mailto:terry@optometry.org)

(704) 332-9565

[www.optometry.org](http://www.optometry.org)

Residency Program details may be viewed at either website below:

[www.va.gov/optometry/](http://www.va.gov/optometry/)

[www.va.gov/oaa/](http://www.va.gov/oaa/)

December 2011

# ADVANCED COMPETENCE IN MEDICAL OPTOMETRY

---

**A C M O**



# Credentialing Opportunity for VA Doctors of Optometry

Since 2005, the Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) examination has provided candidates an opportunity to document their advanced competence in medical optometry especially as achieved through a residency.

Administered each June, ACMO was developed by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) at the request of the National Association of VA Optometrists (NAVAO). As an established credential, eligibility has been expanded. Read more about what this may mean for you.

## The ACMO Assessment

---

- ▶ ACMO is a computer-based test (CBT). It consists of 40 simulated patient cases related to ocular disease and associated systemic conditions. Each case features clinical photos and/or other images displaying patient findings. Four multiple-choice questions follow each patient presentation. By its nature, ACMO has high clinical relevance.
- ▶ ACMO is administered in a single 4½ hour session.

- ▶ ACMO is *not* graded on a curve. Candidates do not compete with each other; they compete only against the predetermined pass-fail standard. For the first seven administrations, the overall ACMO pass rate is nearly 88%.
- ▶ The majority of candidates who have taken ACMO indicate in post-test surveys that ACMO is well-targeted in assessing advanced competence in medical optometry. They also indicate that ACMO's content corresponds to the clinical conditions typically encountered in a VA setting.
- ▶ ACMO is administered on a Friday since more PearsonVue CBT centers are open on weekdays, providing even greater access for candidates.
- ▶ A description of the ACMO content, including sample cases, is provided on the NBEO website:

[www.optometry.org/acmo\\_description.cfm](http://www.optometry.org/acmo_description.cfm)

## Eligibility for ACMO

---

The ACMO exam is designed for Doctors of Optometry who:

- have completed, or are in the process of completing, an ACOE-accredited VA residency program by June 30, 2012, **or**

- have completed an ACOE-accredited residency program, **or**
- are actively involved in the training and education of optometry residents, **or**
- are clinically privileged to provide optometric patient care services to patients at federal facilities; **AND**
- have active licensure with therapeutic privileges as of March 03, 2011 (3 months prior to the test administration); **AND**
- have no licensure sanctions or active state board investigations.

A tiered exam fee structure is in place for ACMO, which offers a reduced exam fee for current residents. More detailed exam eligibility and fee information are available on the NBEO website.

## ACMO's History

---

ACMO is the result of NAVAO's request to the NBEO to create a credible process for VA residents to document advanced competence in medical optometry. Prior to ACMO's creation, residents in optometry lacked a standardized assessment that enabled them to demonstrate their advanced competence. This contrasted sharply with the existence of standardized exit assessments for residents in medicine, dentistry, and podiatry.