To provide the same opportunity for residents in optometry, NAVAO approached NBEO for its expertise in clinical assessment. The resulting collaboration led to NBEO developing the examination, with NAVAO involvement to ensure the test's relevance to the clinical experience of the VA. The NBEO's ACMO Case Authors and Examination Development Committee include senior VA clinicians and residency Program Supervisors, some 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 with which VA residents would be highly familiar.

APPLICATIONS

The 2016 administration of ACMO will be on **Thursday, June 2**. Registration information for the 2016 ACMO exam is available on the NBEO website at www.optometry.org.

All eligible candidates are encouraged to sit for ACMO, as it is offered only once per year. Successful candidates receive a credential from the NBEO acknowledging their advanced competence.

NAVAO

www.navao.org

NBEO

Dr. Jack Terry
Chief Executive Officer
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Residency Program details may be viewed at either address below:

www.va.gov/optometry/

www.va.gov/oaa/

October 2015

ADVANCED COMPETENCE IN MEDICAL OPTOMETRY

ACMO

CREDENTIALING OPPORTUNITY FOR VA DOCTORS OF OPOMETRY

Since 2005, the Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) examination has provided current and former VA residents an opportunity to document their advanced competence.

Administered each June, ACMO is 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 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 one another; they compete only against the predetermined pass-fail standard. For the first eleven administrations, the average ACMO pass rate is 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 at Pearson VUE testing centers, providing greater access for candidates.

- A description of the ACMO content, including sample cases, is on the NBEO website:

www.optometry.org/acmo_description.cfm

ELIGIBILITY

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, 2016, ***or***

- have completed an ACOE-accredited residency program, ***or***

- are actively involved in the training of 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 2, 2016 (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 reduces the exam fee for current residents. More detailed exam eligibility and fee information are available on the NBEO website.

HISTORY

ACMO is the result of NAVAO requesting 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 enabling their demonstration of advanced competence. This contrasted sharply with the existence of standardized exit assessments for residents in medicine, dentistry, and podiatry.