

ABO NOCE Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

100 Questions	2h Time limit	Pass/Fail (criterion-refer... Passing score
\$225 Exam fee	American Board of Optic... Governing body	

The numbers to remember

- Scored questions: 100, inside a 125-question form (25 are unscored pretest items you can't identify).
- Time limit: 2 hours.
- Exam fee: \$225 alone, or \$250 combined with the CLRE.
- Eligibility: high school diploma, GED, or equivalent (exceptions for high school students).
- Test delivery: 300+ Prometric centers, plus ProProctor remote testing.
- Testing windows: 4 per year (Jan–Mar, Apr–Jun, Jul–Sep, Oct–Dec).
- Retakes: 14-day wait between attempts; after 3 unsuccessful attempts, a 90-day wait.
- Score verification: \$75 fee if you request a review of a non-passing result.
- Reschedule/transfer fee: \$75 before the last day of your current window.
- Certification renewal: every 3 years.

Subtests and scores

The NOCE isn't split into separately-scored subtests — it's one 100-question scored exam covering six content domains, reported as a single pass/fail result. ABO-NCLE sets the passing standard using the Modified Angoff Method, a criterion-referenced approach based on expert judgment of minimally-competent performance. There is no published scaled cut score, so don't waste study time hunting for a magic percentage — focus on being solid across every domain instead.

High-yield review areas

- Domain I — Ophthalmic Optics (25 questions): the largest domain. Lens power, prism, and base curve math.
- Domain V — Dispensing Procedures (20 questions): measuring, fitting, and adjusting eyewear step-by-step.
- Domain III — Ophthalmic Products (20 questions): lens materials, coatings, and frame types.
- Domain IV — Instrumentation (15 questions): what each tool measures and how to read it correctly.
- Domain II — Ocular Anatomy/Physiology/Pathology/Refraction (10 questions) and Domain VI — Laws, Regulations, and Standards (10 questions): smaller but still worth a focused pass — every scored question counts equally.

Top traps

- Don't chase a phantom cut score. The pass/fail standard is criterion-referenced with no published number — balanced strength across domains matters more than optimizing for a target percentage.
- Don't try to spot the unscored questions. All 125 items look identical, and 100 of them count — treat every question with equal focus.
- Don't underweight the small domains. Laws/Regulations/Standards and Ocular Anatomy are only 10 questions each, but skipping them is just as costly per-question as skipping a large domain.
- Don't assume you can retake immediately. The 14-day minimum wait (90 days after a third miss) means a failed attempt can delay your next testing window — plan your target date with buffer.
- Don't forget the clock. With 125 questions in 2 hours, pacing practice matters as much as content review.

Official sources

- American Board of Opticianry (ABO-NCLE) — ABO-NCLE Basic Exam Handbook, February 2025:
<https://www.abo-ncle.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Documents/Exam%20Handbooks%20Feb%2025/ABO-NCLE%20Basic%20Exam%20Handbook%20February%202025.pdf>
- American Board of Opticianry (ABO-NCLE) — ABO-NCLE Basic Exam Handbook, December 2023 (prior version, corroborating):
<https://www.abo-ncle.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Documents/Exam%20Handbooks%20December%202023/ABO-NCLE%20Basic%20Exam%20Handbook%20December%202023.pdf>
- American Board of Opticianry (ABO-NCLE) — ABO-NCLE official homepage (abo-ncle.org): <https://www.abo-ncle.org/>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/exams/abo-noce/practice-test