



## American Orthoptic Council

3914 Nakoma Road Madison, WI 53711  
Questions? Contact [aoc.beckie@yahoo.com](mailto:aoc.beckie@yahoo.com)

### CE Guidelines and Requirements 2021

While the Council recognizes and approves non-core areas of study, the majority of required continuing education (CE) for orthoptists must be from CORE topics:

- ▶ *At least* 30 of the required 45 credits must be earned in CORE topics and
- ▶ *At least* 10 core credits must come from attendance at meetings. *see new guidelines for Webinars*

Be aware that some courses approved by JCAHPO may be non-core topics and should not automatically be calculated as core.

**CORE CE:** REFER to the AOC *Syllabus of Orthoptic Instruction* and the *Core Competency: essential skills for orthoptists*. Both documents are available for purchase from AOC.

**Unsure about a course or CE credit?** Questions should be directed to: [AOC.beckie@yahoo.com](mailto:AOC.beckie@yahoo.com).

**The Council recognizes the benefit of additional education in all aspects of ophthalmology. Topics outside of the CORE areas which are most strongly recommended are related to the following topics:**

**NON-CORE** topics included must be ophthalmology sponsored/approved courses in:

- Child Development
- Low vision, assessment and aids
- Contact lenses
- Tonometry
- Ophthalmic photography
- Operating room techniques
- Informed Consent
- Ethics

**NO credit:** courses or lectures on coding, billing and other administrative/clerical office work and CPR.

**MEETINGS / COURSES** *see new guidelines for Webinar meeting attendance*

**At least 10 of the 45 hours must be from attendance at meetings and MUST be from core topics.**

However, approved non-core meeting hours may count toward total credits submitted

- 1:1 credit for attendance at AACO, AOC, AAPO&S, ophthalmology section of AAP, NANOS, or JCAHPO symposia, meetings and/or courses [*not all JCAHPO approvals are in core topics*]
- 1:1 credit will be given to attendance at foreign meetings if they are approved or sponsored by orthoptic or ophthalmology organizations (ie: IOC, COC, TCOS, CLADE, PAAO, ISA, ESA, WSPOS, IPOSC).

**NOTE** regarding publications/presentation/posters. In combination the same material may earn 12 credits: if a presentation or poster follows the publication it may earn 2 not 5 credits. If the publication follows the presentation or poster the same work will receive 7 not 10 credits.

**PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / POSTERS**

- 5 credits to author or presenter of AOC approved instructional video

- 1:1 credit for instruction course presentation (2 hr course = 2 credits)
- 10 credits for publication of a paper in a peer reviewed journal
- 5 credits for a talk at an AOC approved meeting (core or non-core topic)
- 5 credits per author for a poster at an AOC recognized meeting

### Additional ways to earn CE credits:

- **WEBINARS: *new guidelines for approval***  
**In-person credits [*attendance*] for virtual meetings and live webinars will be allowed with these requirements:**
  - A live webinar must include opportunities for questions and answers between attendees and the speaker.
  - A post-session evaluation is required for attendees that reflects their attendance. If an evaluation is not provided by the meeting organizer, you must submit three points that were made by the speakers for every hour of CE attendance.
  - 1:1 credit will be given for webinars and/or virtual meetings with the target audience being orthoptists and/or pediatric ophthalmologists.
  - A maximum of 15 credits from webinars and/or virtual meetings will be allowed for each year, 2020 and 2021.
- **ORTHOPTIST INFORMAL GROUP DISCUSSIONS:** 2:1 Core CE  
 Maximum of 10 CE credits per renewal and may not be used to fulfill *attendance at meetings*; approval requires submission of date and meeting agenda and topics covered with titles of the articles or diagnoses of the patients discussed and a list of attendees.
- **AMERICAN ORTHOPTIC JOURNALS (AOJ) quizzes** are still available from past issues
  - Quizzes are available from volumes 47-62; two separate quizzes per issue.
    - Example: quiz 57/1 and 57/2 are from volume 57, 2007.
  - Questions are based on the content in the article; no prior knowledge necessary
  - **Cost:** \$40 per quiz. **CE awarded:** 5 core hours of CE per quiz successfully completed
  - **Order:** via email: AOC.Beckie@yahoo.com. Check or money order to AOJ Quiz and mail to AOC 3914 Nakoma Road Madison, WI 53711
- **AOC APPROVED BASIC SCIENCE DVDs:** order from AOC.Beckie@yahoo.com
  - 1:1 core credit for viewing the video tapes
  - 7 hours of CE can be earned if quiz is successfully completed
- **AAO Basic Science Course Sections V and VI:**
  - 15 core CE per volume with proof of completed quiz
  - Contact AAO or AOC for instructions to obtain quiz; no fees charged.
  - 15 non-core credits for other sections
- **AACO Self-Assessment Quiz:** 5 core credits for successful completion of quiz
  - AACO members can request quiz from AACO Education Comm Chair

- **SELF STUDY:** 1:4 credit (1 credit per 4 hours of contact) offerings without prior AOC CE approval: "hands-on workshops", viewing poster sessions, core topic reading from textbooks, journals or audio cassettes and videos.