



Optometry Australia  
Advanced Practice Recognition Program

## Assessment Process

*Optometry Australia Credentialed Advanced Practitioner - Glaucoma (OACAP-G)*



*Optometry Australia  
Credentialed Advanced Practitioner*

# Introduction

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Applying to become an advanced glaucoma practitioner through Optometry Australia's Advanced Practice Recognition Program involves several steps.

First, candidates need to apply and gain admission to an application round. Depending on availability, this could be the next round or a later one if there is a waitlist. It's a good idea to start preparing your application for each step early, so you're ready to submit when the intake round opens as we have a short period of time for each intake round.

For Steps 2 to 4, candidates can resubmit each item once, with feedback provided to support improvement.

Finally, once Steps 2 to 4 are completed successfully, candidates proceed to Step 5, the Clinical Discussion Interview.

All candidates will need to provide a Statutory Declaration confirming that the evidence submitted is their own and not that of another practitioner or generated by Artificial Intelligence, and that all case logs and case reports provided are true and correct. At the discretion of Optometry Australia, any component of the application can be checked for plagiarism.

## Assessment Process – Overview

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### Application

- Please submit your application to become an Optometry Australia Credentialed Advanced Practitioner – Glaucoma (OACAP-G).

### Admission

- We maintain a registry of applications and will admit up to 20 candidates per application round.
- For 2025 we have one intake round in April ending in June
- Then from 2026 we will have two intake rounds; you will be notified when your application round will be.
  - Intake Round 1: Starts in February, Ends in May
  - Intake Round 2: Starts in August, Ends in November

### Get your submissions ready

- Once you have been allocated your intake round you will submit Steps 2 through to 4 for assessment by the Advanced Practice Recognition Examiner Teams. Please be sure to use all relevant templates provided for each element of Steps 2 to 4.

### Attend your interview

- Upon successful completion of Steps 2 through to 4 you will be notified and allocated a time slot to attend your Clinical Discussion Interview (Step 5).

### Become credentialed

- If you have successfully completed Steps 2 through to 5 you can now use the title Optometry Australia Credentialed Advanced Practitioner – Glaucoma. You can now also use OACAP-G in your post-nominal title.

### Maintain your title

- To maintain OACAP-G status, credentialed professionals must then attend the annual APR Program Symposium (scheduled in alignment with Optometry Clinical Connection in August 2025) or review the recording and join a one-hour drop-in session, both requiring a small attendance fee. They must also manage at least 20 glaucoma patients per year, with Optometry Australia conducting spot audits as needed.

# Steps to become Credentialed

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## Step 1. Application and Admission

Each candidate will need to submit a completed application form as well as a Curriculum Vitae (CV) that demonstrates clinical experience in glaucoma in the form of a cover letter to accompany the CV as part of their application.

Candidates must detail and provide evidence within their CV that they have graduated from an optometry course and have a minimum of 5 years of clinical experience in the field of optometry.

While Optometry Australia expects that applications will require 5 years of experience to build the required clinical expertise, if you believe that you have achieved extensive glaucoma experience within a shorter time frame, please contact us at [policy@optometry.org.au](mailto:policy@optometry.org.au) ATTN: Advanced Practice Recognition Team as exceptions for extenuating circumstances can be accommodated.

Please note that the clinical experience must be within Australia, New Zealand or relevant jurisdictions.

Under certain circumstances, career interruptions may warrant special consideration, and applicants are encouraged to seek clarification from Optometry Australia.

## Step 2. Recognition of Prior Experience

Each applicant will need to submit evidence to demonstrate that they have the necessary clinical experience working with glaucoma.

Option	Points
<b>Case Logs</b>	
Case log with 90 patients logged	60 points
Case log with 60 patients logged	40 points
Case log with 30 patients logged	20 points
<b>Other</b>	
Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma: Australian College of Optometry Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma	20 points  *Must have been completed within the last 10 years.
Author of a peer-reviewed publication in the field of Glaucoma	5 points  *Applicants can claim up to a maximum of 20 points *Must have been completed within the last 10 years.
Lead presenter for a presentation at a Conference in the field of Glaucoma	5 points  *Applicants can claim up to a maximum of 20 points *Must have been completed within the last 10 years.
Author of a poster in the field of Glaucoma	5 points  *Applicants can claim up to a maximum of 20 points *Must have been completed within the last 10 years.
Optometric Educator in Glaucoma  The educator will need to provide a synopsis of the course objectives, lessons planned, lessons learned and relevant literature incorporated into the course that relate to Glaucoma.	Variable points.  Please contact the Optometry Australia Advanced Practice Team for your individual point allocation.

## Further instructions for the points system

Each candidate must achieve 60 points.

It is mandatory to submit a case log. Cases recorded will be no more than 10 years old.

The candidate can then choose how they wish to meet the points requirements from a mix of prior experience options outlined in the 'Other section'. The prior experience options have been weighted according to their contribution to the development of clinical expertise. While candidates can submit more than one poster, publication or presentation, each candidate must also include a case log providing evidence of a minimum of 30 cases or 20 points.

Each candidate must use the designated case log template when submitting their case log. The log should include examples of clinical practice covering a range of glaucoma classifications, in line with the guidance provided within the template. To ensure the inclusion of a suitably diverse set of cases, candidates are encouraged to follow the structure and response areas outlined in the template. Importantly, for every case included, the candidate must have been the primary clinician responsible for the patient's management.

Applicants will be expected to submit a Statutory Declaration stating that the case log represents a true representation of their recent clinical practice. Random audit checks will be performed to ensure that the case log presented comprises real patients treated by the candidate.

## Step 3. Case Reports

Each candidate must submit two case reports of up to 3,000 words each related to glaucoma.

The detailed case reports are the primary way in which candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge and experience across the competencies outlined in the Advanced Competency Standards in Glaucoma document. Candidates are expected to refer to both the marking rubric and competency document when completing their two case reports in order to ensure that they are addressing all areas of clinical practice. Where the case reports do not sufficiently address the competency requirements, candidates will be advised and they may be asked to re-submit additional information or another case study.

Candidates are asked to refer to the Case Report Instructions document for further instructions about how to respond and for an outline of the marking rubric. Each case report must demonstrate an advanced level of care and detail and outline management across a series of client consultations.

## Step 4. Leadership Competencies

In addition to the case reports, candidates are required to submit a short, written response (no more than 250 words) to the leadership criteria outlined in Domain 3 of the Advanced Competency Standards in Glaucoma. Domain 3 is intended to allow a wide range of potential responses that demonstrate leadership as the assessment process recognises that there are a diverse range of settings that candidates may work in as well as differences in the level of autonomy those practitioners have in their workplace.

## Step 5. Clinical Discussion Interview

All candidates will be required to participate in a clinical discussion with an assessor. Please refer to the Clinical Discussion Interview Instructions document to familiarise yourself with what to expect.

The purpose of the clinical discussion is to verify the information provided in application steps 1 through 4, address any gaps or areas where the assessor may require further clarification, and facilitate discussion of a glaucoma case that reflects advanced-level clinical practice. The interview structure will consist of a mix of generalised questions from the examiner, specific questions to address any gaps arising from the application information. The majority of the interview will focus on a case-based discussion, during which candidates will be expected to draw on relevant evidence-based literature and demonstrate the ability to make clear, best-practice management decisions.

The clinical discussion interview will take 1 hour and be conducted virtually, via Zoom or Microsoft TEAMS. The session will be recorded.

## Re-attempts and Appeals

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The candidate will have one re-attempt for each step and will be provided with feedback to consider before the re-attempt. If the candidate is not successful twice, they will need to re-apply at the next intake round.

Candidates may request an appeal for the failure of an assessment piece. If a candidate feels that the failure of their exam or assessment piece was a result of interference from an external party, conflict of interest or risk of bias then they are directed to submit an appeal to Optometry Australia via [policy@optometry.org.au](mailto:policy@optometry.org.au) ATTN: Advanced Practice Recognition Team. Please provide all of your contact details and a basic description of the nature of your appeal. The Advanced Practice Recognition Team will implement our appeals policy.

## Ongoing Requirements to Maintain Credentialling

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To retain the status and title of Optometry Australia Credentialed Advanced Practitioner – Glaucoma (OACAP-G), credentialed professionals must participate in an annual symposium day. This involves up to six hours of lectures or grand rounds, emphasising case-based learning and literature reviews.

These sessions will be facilitated by credentialed practitioners, including ophthalmologists. The event will be recorded for those unable to attend, with the requirement that practitioners review the recording and participate in a separate one-hour facilitated drop-in session.

In addition, credentialed professionals must see a minimum of 20 glaucoma patients per calendar year. Optometry Australia can conduct spot audits to confirm this.

# Acknowledgments

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Optometry Australia would like to acknowledge the contributions of all individuals, groups and organisations who have played a critical role in the development of the Advanced Practice Recognition Program, including members of the Advanced Practice Oversight Committee and the Glaucoma Clinical Advisory Committee for their strategic guidance and valuable feedback.