



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY #831-00

5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 – 2030



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Mississippi State Board of Optometry 2026 – 2030

Comprehensive Mission Statement

The Mission of the Mississippi State Board of Optometry is to appropriately license and renew licenses of Optometrists in the State and to regulate the practice of Optometry by concentrating on enforcing the Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations to protect the citizens of Mississippi.

Philosophy

The Mississippi State Board of Optometry is committed to the continued safeguarding of the practice of Optometry in the State of Mississippi. The Mississippi State Board is charged with ensuring that the licensed optometrists maintain the highest standards of professionalism.

Relevant Statewide Goals and Benchmarks

Statewide Goal #1: To protect Mississippians from risks to public health and to provide them with the health-related information and access to quality healthcare necessary to increase the length and quality of their lives.

Presently the Board has credentialed over 204 Mississippi licensed Optometrists, who have preformed over 4528 YAG Posterior Capsulectomys with only one complaint and the Board is not aware of any malpractice suits filed regarding this.

Relevant Benchmarks #1:

- Number of licensed optometrists in the State.
- Number of complaints sent to the Board regarding optometrist.

The Board of Optometry has recently relocated into a commercial property located at 5 Old River Place, Suite 105, Jackson, Mississippi 39202. With the cooperation of the Bureau of Buildings, Grounds and Real Property Management at DFA, we entered into a lease agreement for a five- (5-) year term. Our newly leased space is beautiful

and serves as a comfortable and professional place to conduct day-to-day business.

Overview of the Agency 5-Year Strategic Plan

The Mississippi State Board of Optometry will continue to ensure the integrity of Mississippi licensed Optometrists with sustained oversight and regulation. The Board will issue licenses after ensuring that the applicant meets the Mississippi standards and verifying that the applicant is in good standing in other jurisdictions. It will continue to research the most proficient approach to achieve this including participation in the National Practitioners Data Bank.

The Board continues to conduct background checks on new Optometry applicants.

Applicants for licensure in the State are required to pass a Rules and Regulations examination which is currently offered twice a year, on the second Saturday of January and July per §73-19-19. The Board has been offering the Primary Eyecare Procedures written exam and clinical skills check offs bi-annually, as well.

The Board will continue to investigate complaints brought against optometrists fully and completely and take disciplinary action as needed to maintain the integrity of the profession and to safeguard public health. The procedure for these investigations is implemented according to §73-19-33. The Board has an Investigator to aid the Board members with complaint investigations.

Agency's External/Internal Assessment

- The number of optometrists seeking licensure may increase or decrease.
- The number of optometrists currently licensed may decrease.
- The number of complaints or fines may increase.
- The time and expense to investigate these complaints may change.
- There may be changes in the scope of practice.
- The education requirements change if the scope of practice changes.

The Mississippi State Board of Optometry is made up of five (5) licensed Optometrists representing each congressional district, one (1) serving as President, one (1) as Secretary, and three (3) members. The Board meets a minimum of four (4) times per year to conduct necessary business. The Board may call additional meetings at such times and places as the Board shall determine, said meetings shall not exceed ten (10) meeting days annually, pursuant to §73-10-9. Board members work to correct any problems or deficiencies that impair or prohibit them from performing the duties entrusted to them by the Governor, their peers and the citizens of the State of Mississippi.

The Board also has a website to provide the public with easy access to copies of the Rules and Regulations, complaint forms, applications for licensure, a list of the names and phone numbers of the current members on the Board, and a searchable database for Optometric License verification. The State Board of Optometry now offers license renewal online.

The Mississippi State Board of Optometry has a legal service contract with the Attorney General's office and has employed Beverly Limbaugh, Executive Director, for over twenty (20) years. The Board has recently hired an additional administrative assistant for part-time office work.

Agency Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Measures by Program for FY 2026 through FY 2030:

FY 2026-2030

Program 1: Licensure and Registration

GOAL A: §73-19-9. Officers and members of board shall make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter; provided, however, that it shall require the concurrence of a majority of the members of the board to grant or revoke a license.

OBJECTIVE A.1: Effectively license and regulate optometrists in the State of Mississippi for adherence to the laws and regulations. Included in the PEP certification outcome data reported upon renewal every year.

Outcome: Reduced complaints (New)

Outcome: Reduced number of fines (New)

STRATEGY A.1.1: Give written exam/skills assessment to new applicants

Output: Number of exams administered

Efficiency: Cost per applicant to compile and give exam (New)

STRATEGY A.1.2: License and certify new applicants adhering to the Rules and Regulations and the Practice Act

Output: Number of licenses

Output: Number of applicants reviewed

Efficiency: Number of applications approved (percentage)