



The Road to ACBO Fellowship



AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF
BEHAVIOURAL
OPTOMETRISTS

If you have been an ACBO Member for a number of years, you may wish to consider the next step – raising your personal bar and becoming an ACBO Fellow. Becoming a Fellow takes you to the pinnacle of your profession, and provides recognition of achievement amongst your patients and peers. So what is involved? Read on...

What is an ACBO Fellow?

Fellows are those ACBO members who have completed the Fellowship examination process, which takes 2 - 3 years. The Fellowship process includes comprehensive written and oral examinations and the writing of a literature review.

What are the benefits?

Fellows receive all the benefits of certified members plus they are able to attend "Fellows Only" continuing education, and are recognised by other professionals and the wider community as providing the highest level of professional behavioural care.

ACBO Fellows are given priority listing on the ACBO Online Membership Directory.

"The Fellowship process helped me to better understand the process of vision. Further, it gave me the opportunity to grow with and learn from my peers, and made me more confident in my clinical work, and my ability to explain my findings and treatments to my patients."

Sue Larter

Aims & Objectives

- To raise the clinical standard of optometry, with particular emphasis on neuro-developmental and functional disabilities of vision and visual information processing.
- To certify optometrists who have successfully completed the curriculum and passed the examination process.
- To institute measures that will keep Fellows at an appropriate level of competence.

Eligibility requirements:

Before commencing the Fellowship program you need to meet the following requirements:

- Be an ACBO member in good standing for a minimum of two years.
- Meet continuing education requirements, which include having passed the UNSW Masters Behavioural Unit or equivalent (at the discretion of the Fellowship Examination Board (FEB)).
- Be a member in good standing of Optometrists Association Australia or the New Zealand Association of Optometrists or equivalent relevant body.

"Being a Fellow allows me to speak with greater credibility to other professionals who acknowledge and respect the Fellowship process" ***Julius Liubinas***



Maintaining your Fellowship status

- Fellows must remain financial ACBO members to retain their status
- In addition to the Membership eligibility criteria, Fellows must attend at least one Fellows Conference every 2 years to maintain their status

"The completion of my Fellowship has given me an understanding of the many options in treatment, and a greater fascination in my profession." ***Adrian Bell***

Fellowship Preparation Program:

How do I become a Fellow?

All optometrists wishing to enter the Fellowship Program are required to have completed and passed the entire Masters Behavioural Unit at the University of New South Wales. The Masters Behavioural Unit is designed as a combination of remote learning and weekend conferences and workshops. The course provides the necessary theoretical and research background to prepare the candidate for the Fellowship process. You must first enroll as a UNSW post-graduate student before applying for the course. You can submit an online enrolment application for prospective students, and read about the requirements for non-UNSW graduates to submit an academic transcript with the application form. For more information, go to www.unsw.edu.au

A Fellowship Study Camp is scheduled for October-November in the year prior to that in which the due date for the submission of answers to the open book examination questions falls. Attendance is compulsory. The Camp is designed to help candidates consolidate concepts to which they have been exposed during the Fellowship process and it is at this stage that thesis topics and research design will be discussed.

All candidates are to spend at least one day at a Fellow's practice. The Fellowship host practice program enables a candidate to visit a host behavioural practice to experience behavioural optometry in action.

Phase 1: Submission deadline April 30th

1. Register for Fellowship. Registration & payment (\$2000) can be made online through the ACBO website (go to Event Calendar to see listing in April). Registrations close by 30th of April in the year of the study camp.
2. Prepare the open book questions draft answers in preparation for attendance at the fellowship study camp to be held each October
3. Prepare a case report on three topics as specified
4. Complete the Open Book Examination questions and case studies by 30 April of the year following the study camp.
5. Complete at least one day at a Fellow's host practice and submit the feedback form to all the members of the FEB by April 30th.

Phase 2:

6. Complete a literature review or original research work

Phase 3:

7. Written examination.
8. Oral Examination

Once registered, the candidate has a strict time limit of three years from date of registration to complete all phases of fellowship. Failure to do so will result in a re-registration fee being payable in order to continue the process.

