# COPE Categories

*Revised January 2022*

## A. CLINICAL OPTOMETRY

**Contact Lenses (CL):** All aspects of contact lens applications.

**Functional Vision/Pediatrics (FV):** Those portions of optometric practice that deal with visual processing and neuro-optometric rehabilitation (acquired brain injury), including sports vision, binocular vision (strabismus/amblyopia), visual processing and vision therapy or vision development.

**General Optometry (GO):** Any study in the area of the eye and vision care, which constitutes eye and vision research, or examination, diagnosis and treatment of anomalies of the human eye and visual system. For the purposes of these categories "General Optometry" excludes any other category enumerated here.

**Low Vision/Vision Impairment & Rehabilitation (LV):** All aspects of low vision devices, care and therapy; including models of care based on a team approach and case management.

**Public Health (PB):** Those portions of optometry focused on disease prevention, epidemiology, diversity, equity and inclusion, and health promotion at a population level and considering evidence from the fields of biostatistics, environmental health, infectious disease, epidemiology, social epidemiology, health policy and management of social and behavioral sciences.

***Examples:*** Disease surveillance; vision screening; health disparities; determinants of health; health literacy; health education; environmental optometry; infection control; health services research; health law; health economics; evidence-based practice; behavior change communication; cultural and linguistic competency; social determinants of health, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging training; unconscious bias, etc.

## B. OCULAR DISEASE

**Glaucoma (GL):** The study of the etiology, clinical pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, management, and the outcomes of therapeutic regimens.

***Examples:*** Any course with major emphasis on diagnosis, treatment, and/or surgical and medical management of glaucoma (i.e., trabeculectomy, laser surgery for glaucoma).

**Injection Skills (IS)**
Instruction and clinical training in ocular injection for the purpose of therapeutic diagnosis and treatment of disease or anaphylaxis.

**Laser Procedures (LP)**
The study and clinical training in the performance of any ophthalmic laser procedure of the anterior segment and adnexa.

***Examples:*** SLT, ALT, LPI, Gonioplasty, YAG PC, Iridoplasty, Punctoplasty etc.

**Peri-Operative Management of Ophthalmic Surgery (PO)**
The study of all aspects of pre- and post-operative management of invasive ophthalmic surgery procedures including Refractive Surgery.

***Examples:*** Cataract Surgery, blepharoplasty, strabismus surgery, keratoplasty, and courses related specifically to management of PRK, RK and LASIK patients, corneal refractive surgery, etc.

**Surgery Procedures (Optometric) (SP)**
Instruction and/or clinical training in the performance of ocular surgery procedures.

***Examples:*** I&D of lesions, surgical lid lesion excision, suturing techniques, stromal micropuncture, chalazion curettage, etc.

**Treatment & Management of Ocular Disease (TD):**
The study of the etiology, clinical pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, management, and outcomes of therapeutic regimens for anomalies of the human eye.

## C. RELATED SYSTEMIC DISEASE

**Neuro-Optometry (NO):** The study of the etiology, clinical evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and management of disease and disorders of the nervous system, both systemically and as it relates directly to the eye and visual system.

***Examples***: Includes all aspects of nervous system conditions involving the brain, cranial nerves, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, and corresponding muscles, i.e., multiple sclerosis, pituitary tumor, traumatic brain injury (TBI), Myasthenia Gravis, papilledema, Horner's Syndrome, etc.

**Pharmacology (PH):** The study of the actions, interactions and proper uses of medications in human biological systems. This includes the study of the etiology, clinical evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease using the appropriate medications, topical, oral, or other routes of administration, for diagnosis and ocular therapy.

***Examples:*** Toxicology; adverse effects of drugs; control of ocular pain; indications for treatment; prescription utilization; follow-up assessment; pharmacodynamics; pharmacokinetics.

**Systemic Disease (SD):** The study of the relationship of any anomaly of normal function of the human body and the possible manifestation of such as signs and/or symptoms in the eye or visual system.

***Examples:*** General study of diabetes, HIV/AIDS, thyroid disease, etc., along with their ocular manifestations. Vascular diseases both systemic and ocular, autoimmune disease and non-ocular cancers.

## D. OPTOMETRIC BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

**Practice Management (PM):** The study of management of the business affairs of optometric practice. This includes the concepts of managed care and operations management, leadership, marketing, social media, patient communication, as well as courses designed to help market practices, to educate office staff, to improve billing efficiency and coding skills, to improve clinical recordkeeping and to enhance fiscal efficiency. **EHR and ICD-10 courses are included in this category.** This does not include courses that are intended for personal enhancement or investment prowess.

**Ethics/Jurisprudence (EJ):** The study of the body of law in the practice of optometry and its relationship to the Medicolegal system.

***Examples:*** Examples: Any courses related to the rules and practice acts for optometry, or addressing medicolegal issues related to patient treatment, liability concerns and issues, compliance, and adoption of emerging technologies.