COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

RECOGNITION DECISION SUMMARY

COMMISSION ON OPTICIANRY ACCREDITATION (COA)

In accordance with the *2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*, *Paragraph 43*, this summary of recognition status describes the formal action taken by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors with regard to an accrediting organization seeking recognition by CHEA.

Profile of Accrediting Organization

Type of Accreditor: Programmatic

Number of Programs: 21

Current CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation

COA accredits two-year opticianry degree programs and one-year ophthalmic laboratory technology certificate programs in the United States and Canada that are sponsored by post-secondary institutions accredited by agencies recognized by the Department of Education or CHEA. (2010)

CHEA Recognition Information

History: No prior recognition by CHEA

Most Recent Recognition Action

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, January 25, 2010

Decision: Recognition for up to 10 years

Summary of CHEA's Most Recent Recognition Review

The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (*2006 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 5-8).

COA demonstrated that it meets these standards and that its accreditation process is consistent with the quality, improvement and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.

The CHEA recognition policy requires that an accrediting organization undergo a recognition review least every 10 years and submit two interim reports.

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