

To qualify for certification at the COMT level, you must meet one of the following five options:

Eligibility Pathway	Education	Work Experience With an Ophthalmologist
COMT-TG1	COA-OMP or CMA ¹ accredited training program at the technologist level & two or more years of college education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation. ◆ Successful completion of two or more years of college and/or university-level courses (90 quarter or 60 semester credits). 	None necessary
COMT – TG2	COA-OMP or CMA ¹ accredited training program at the technologist level & less than two years of college education ² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation. The credits must be earned within 36 months prior to submitting your application. 	Employed 4,000 hours within 24 months prior to submitting application
COMT – TG3	Current COT certification & JCAHPO Group A credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application. ◆ Must maintain certification as a COT while pursuing COMT certification 	Employed 6,000 hours as a COT
COMT – TG4	Current CO or OC(C) certification & JCAHPO Group A credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application. ◆ Must maintain certification as an Orthoptist while pursuing COMT certification 	Employed 4,000 hours as a CO or OC(C) within 60 months prior to submitting application
COMT – TG5	Fast-Track option: Allows a current COT the use of 6,000 hours of non-certified work experience prior to becoming certified, and JCAHPO Group A credits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application. ◆ Must maintain certification as a COT while pursuing COMT certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Employed 3,000 hours as a COT <i>and</i> ◆ 6,000 hours of non-certified work experience with an ophthalmologist prior to becoming JCAHPO certified. Verification of previous work experience needs to be in the form of a letter from your ophthalmologist on official letterhead.

¹ COA-OMP is the Commission on Accreditation of Ophthalmic Medical Programs. CMA is the Canadian Medical Association.

² Candidates who attend a formal training program may apply for the certification examination up to two months prior to graduation from the program; however, no examination results will be sent by JCAHPO to the candidate until official notification of graduation is received and verification of the work experience is received if applicable.

COMT Multiple-Choice Examination Content Areas

Please refer to Appendix A to review the content areas.

COMT Examination Requirements

In addition to completing the COMT multiple-choice examination, COMT candidates need to complete a skill-based performance test. The performance test is composed of two parts – the COT Skill Evaluation and the COMT Performance Test. If a candidate has previous successful completion of the COT Skill Evaluation and maintained the COT certification, it is not necessary to repeat it. Please refer to Appendix A to view the tasks on the COT Skill Evaluation.

COMT Performance Test

The computer simulated COMT Performance Test is currently available at the JCAHPO headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact the JCAHPO Certification Department for additional available testing locations or to schedule an appointment to take the Performance Test in St. Paul. You will have a total of 60 minutes to complete all five skills. There is no time limit on each of the individual tasks. Please refer to Appendix A to review the tasks on the COMT Performance Test.

Performance Test Construction and Scoring

The areas of performance included in the test are those most commonly performed by Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologists (COMTs), according to a job task analysis survey of working technologists and sponsoring ophthalmologists.

The Performance Test scoring system is based on performance steps and the candidate is evaluated on how well each task is performed. The system includes these elements:

- ◆ Each skill is scored independently.
- ◆ Each skill is scored on two components: technique and accuracy of results. To determine the technique score, each skill is divided into steps. Each step is assigned a weighted value based upon its level of importance to the overall process, as determined by the panel of subject matter experts. Points are assigned for correct responses based upon the weighted value of the step. A minimum threshold has been established for achieving a “satisfactory” score. If this established minimum is not met, a “non-satisfactory” score will be assigned.
- ◆ To evaluate the accuracy of results, the panel of subject matter experts has established tolerance ranges for each of the required categories. To receive a “satisfactory” score on accuracy of results, all required results must fall within the tolerance ranges. Otherwise, a “non-satisfactory” score will be assigned.

A “satisfactory” score in both technique and accuracy of results is required to pass each individual skill. A passing score in all five skill areas is needed to successfully complete the Performance Test.