



CONTACT LENS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Becoming a CLSA Fellow

We are excited you are looking into becoming a Fellow member of the Contact Lens Society of America. Those who have achieved CLSA Fellow status (FCLSA) are viewed by those in the eye care industry as highly skilled contact lens professionals. Here are some answers to help you with the requirements of becoming a CLSA Fellow candidate



CLSA Fellow

FCLSA Candidate FAQ's

1. Do you have to be a CLSA member?

A. Yes, in order to become a Fellow candidate you must be a Regular Member of CLSA. You can join if you are not a current member. CLSA dues are \$155/annually. You may join online at www.clsa.info or contact the CLSA office at 1-800-296-9776.

2. How often is the Fellow exam given?

A. It is given annually at the Contact Lens Society of America's annual meeting. Please contact the CLSA office for exact dates.

3. What kind of experience is required?

A. You must have a minimum of two years' experience working in a contact lens practice to sit for the Fellow exam. Having knowledge on all modalities and fitting philosophies is necessary to prepare for the Fellow written and practical exams. Soft, Gas Permeable, Specialty, Scleral, topographies, and case histories are all part of what is tested.

4. What is required to become a Fellow Candidate?

A. Fellow candidates that are not an OD or MD must be National Contact Lens Examiners Advanced level (NCLE-AV) certified. This exam is administered separately through NCLE. for more on how to become NCLE Advanced Certified, contact ABO-NCLE at 1-800-296-1379

For Optometrists and Ophthalmologists- the NCLE Advance written exam is not required with a medical or optometry degree.

5. How do I apply to be a Fellow Candidate?

A. Fellow candidates must submit a letter of intent acknowledging stating you would like to sit for the exams to CLSA. You will also need to submit the application fee of \$25.00. You may submit your letter by written correspondence through the mail, fax to 651-731-0410 or email to clsa@clsa.info.

Once your letter of intent has been received, a Fellow Advisor will be assigned to guide you along the way. While you are not required to take advantage of this opportunity, those who have find it extremely helpful. CLSA Fellow advisors know all about the application process and the requirements that must be completed prior to taking the practical exam. They can also provide helpful study suggestions to help guide you through the exam process.

6. What is the professional development requirement portion?

A. Candidates are required to complete **one** of the three following professional development aspects to be eligible to sit for the Practical Fellow Exam. These are either; submit two patient case histories, write for an approved journal publication, or lecture at a national or regional CL Educational meeting.

6a) Submit Two Patient Case Histories

Case histories need to be either an advanced soft lens and or gas permeable lens patient. The purpose of the case reports are to determine the candidate's ability to disseminate information and pass it along to others. Case History submission is due by email, 60 days prior to the practical examination date.

Advanced topics are required, for example, Scleral lenses, Soft or Gas Permeable Torics, Gas Permeable Multifocal and or hybrid lens designs. Patients must have been followed by the candidate for a minimum of six months.

Case Histories need to be submitted by email to the CLSA office, where they will sent for review by Fellow Committee Members for review approval. Case histories will be returned to the candidate for any revisions or re-submission if needed. The Fellow committee reserves the right to limit up to two re-submissions per case. After more than two revisions the candidate will have to submit a new patient case history. If the case submitted is not approved it will be returned with comments as to why.

The case histories must be received 60 days prior to you sitting for the practice exam. Submissions received after that time will result in not being able to sit for the practical exam.

Case histories must include the following information:

- Patient initials, gender, birth date, history, occupation, relevant hobbies, and reasons for lens wear. Full name of patient is not to be given on any documentation.

- Complete patient history including relevant medications, diseases, ocular conditions, ocular surgeries, allergies, contact lens wearing history, visual needs, symptoms (when applicable), dates of all visits.
- External exam including but not limited to refraction, over-refraction, keratometry, other corneal methods of measurement (maps should be included when they are used), visual acuities, slit lamp exam results, etc.
- Please include a brief summary on the condition of the patient.
- Diagnostic lens fitting including all lenses utilized and the result when placed on the eye. The reasons for the lens choice should also be discussed. Include any over-refraction information.
- Evaluation of lens performance on follow up visits. (Please do not simply include chart notes). Visual acuity, keratometry, slit lamp exam (photos when available), symptoms, wearing time, solution use, any diagnostic lenses needed, modifications required, subsequent treatment and follow up plan, dates of all visits and other pertinent data should also be included. Please describe the *reasons* behind lens choices, do not simply list different lens parameters and what is the final lens parameters.
- Discussion of the patient's case along with validation for the choices that were made, the plan of action taken and conclusions that can be drawn from the case.

6b) Publication of an article in an approved journal

Fellow candidates may submit for consideration an article published in an industry-recognized publication. The article must be 4000 words or more in length, be on a technical contact lens fitting subject, and be acceptable for NCLE continuing education credit. The CLSA journal *EyeWitness*, is an *approved* publication for submission consideration. If approved before publication by the *EyeWitness* editorial team, it will complete the approved journal requirement.

6c) Lecture at a national or regional meeting

Candidates may submit for consideration a lecture presented at an industry-recognized meeting. It may be either a regional or national meeting. The lecture must be on a technical contact lens fitting subject, and must be completed by the time of the practical examination.

The lecture must be accredited for continuing education by NCLE, JCAHPO, COPE or by another recognized certification agency or licensing body. The lecture must be a minimum of one credit hour (50 minutes) in length. A copy of the meeting brochure must accompany your submission.

7. What is the Practical Fellow Exam?

A. The final phase of achieving Fellow status is to sit and pass the practical exam. The practical exam consists of three separate sections. You must pass each section to achieve Fellow member status.

Candidates must pass all three sections of the practical exam by achieving a score of 80% or better on all three parts in order to pass the practical exam. A candidate who has met all the prerequisites and passed one or two of three segments of the practical will be required to retake only the portion(s) that he/she failed. The candidate will have two years in which to complete their final section(s) of the practical exam. The CLSA CD-ROM Photo Atlas, contact lens journals, and books with color illustrations of corneal and contact lens pathology will be very helpful in preparing for this portion of the exam.

1. Instrumentation

In order to pass you will need to demonstrate the use of the radiuscope and lensometer. Candidates will be asked to analyze specialty lenses which may include any or all of the following; scleral, soft and gas permeable toric lenses, gas permeable multifocal and hybrid lens designs.

2. Video/Slide Identification

You will be presented with slides and asked to observe 3-5 videos. You will be asked to identify contact lens fitting situations, corneal topography, fluorescein patterns, and corneal or contact lens-induced pathology. As each slide is displayed, you will be asked to identify (in writing) the slide.

3. Clinical Assessment

Case histories will be presented to a panel of Fellow Committee members. They are looking to see that you know what is required for patients to help them with their vision needs in given situations.

You will be given three different case history reports. Candidates will be asked to analyze data from the case and determine the best contact lens choice. Candidates must be prepared to present supporting arguments for their decisions regarding each patient.

Candidates will be notified the same day of the exam of their pass/fail status.

8. How much does it cost for the Fellow exams?

A. Candidates for the CLSA Fellow Exam are as follows:

- Application Fee: \$25.00. A letter of intent that you would like to sit for the CLSA Fellow exam is required along with the application fee.
- Exam Section Fees: \$65.00 per section. You must sit for all three sections the first year at a cost of \$195. Section re-takes are charged \$65.00 per section, and you are allowed two additional opportunities to sit for each section, or three total tries per section.

9. How do you maintain CLSA Fellow Status?

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A. Preserving your status as a Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America is a privilege and something you worked very hard to obtain. You must maintain your membership through CLSA. Failure to do so will result in a loss of using the designation FCLSA.

The CLSA Fellow Committee is a group of Fellow members who have dedicated themselves to helping others see. Our goal is to help contact lens professionals achieve fellow status. We wish you the best as you continue to strive for Fellow status. If you have further questions please contact the CLSA office.