



Academy 2021 Boston
November 3-6, 2021
Frequently Asked Questions

The American Academy of Optometry, at this time, remains cautiously optimistic we will be planning in Boston. As such, planning continues to move forward for Academy 2021 Boston, for both a safe, in-person meeting, as well as a virtual meeting option, to be offered after the conclusion of the in-person meeting and before the end of the year.

Please see below for a list of commonly asked questions. If your question is not answered, please email: Registration@aaoptom.org.

Continuing Education

Q: How many Continuing Education (CE) credit hours can I earn at Academy 2021 Boston?

A: The Academy is offering more than 350 hours of education at this year's meeting and attendees can earn up to 32 hours. The breakdown is as follows:

- Wednesday, November 3: Eight (8) hours
- Thursday, November 4: Eight (8) hours
- Friday, November 5: Eight (8) hours
- Saturday, November 6: Eight (8) hours

Q: How do I sign-up for sessions in advance?

A: We do not require pre-registration for individual sessions. Seating is first-come, first-serve. The only exceptions are workshops, ACE courses, which require pre-registration and an additional fee. While you can add these on to your registration at a later date, you are encouraged to add them at the time of registration as these special programming options sell-out.

Registration

Q: What does a "Guest Pass" entail?

A: A "Guest Pass" is \$100 and allows your guest access to the Exhibit Hall and social events*. Guests may not attend CE sessions.

Q: Will you mail my registration packet?

A: No. Registration packets will be available onsite at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) beginning Tuesday, November 2, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Q: Where can I find my Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) number?

A: [Click here](#) to search for your number.

Q: Why is my QR Code/Scanner Number not included on my confirmation?

A: You will receive your QR code two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Q: Why is the closing banquet not included in the cost of registration?*

A: The Academy will charge a \$25 fee for all banquet tickets in an effort to better prepare for the number of attendees at the closing event. Banquet tickets are NOT included with complimentary registrations.

Q: I'm interested in the Student Fellowship process; how do I proceed?

A: To participate, you must be an OD student member of the Academy. A link to sign up and the new 2021 requirements will be available in early August.

Hotels

Q: How do I book my hotel?

A: The Academy has contracted with several hotels to offer attendees conference rates in hotels near the BCEC and tourist district. Upon completion of registration, you will receive a link to book your hotel at the contracted hotel of your choice.

For additional assistance booking a hotel (registration is required prior to calling), please call Orchid Events at 1-866-365-1113 (International: +1-801-505-4139).

Q: What is the host hotel for the Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS)?

A: [The Boston Park Plaza](#). A shuttle service will be provided.



Q: What is the host hotel for students?

A: There is not a designated hotel for students.

Transportation

Q: Will shuttle services be available from the Boston Logan Airport to the hotels?

A: No, the Academy does not have designated transportation. Transportation from the airport to the hotel(s) and BCEC is offered via ride share, taxis, shuttles, and buses. [Click here](#) to learn more about transportation options to and from the airport.

Q: Will shuttle services be available between the host hotels and the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC)?

With the exception of the government designated hotel, the Boston Park Plaza, shuttle service between the host hotels and the BCEC will not be provided, as the hotels are within walking distance. You may inquire if your chose hotel offers a shuttle service.

Q: How far is the distance between the designated hotels and the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC)?

A: All hotels, with the exception of the Boston Park Plaza, are within walking distance of the BCEC.

Hotel	Distance	Hotel	Distance
Westin Boston Waterfront (Co-Headquarter Hotel)	.027 mile	Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport (Co-Headquarter Hotel)	.027 mile
Renaissance Boston Waterfront	.05 mile	Aloft Boston Seaport	.2 mile
Seaport Boston Hotel & World Trade Center	.1 mile	The Element Boston Seaport	.03 mile
Boston Park Plaza (Government Hotel)	.8 mile (Shuttle Provided)		

International

Q: I'm in need of a Visa Request Letter; how do I complete this?

A: As we monitor the COVID-19 situation, this includes closely watching the [Federal & CDC travel guidelines, regulations and restrictions](#). We recognize the implications this poses for our international attendees and will keep you apprised of updated information as it is received.

Until this time, we are unable to process any Visa requests and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

However, do not be discourage, as we will be offering the Best of Academy 2021 Boston FOLLOWING the conclusion of the in-person meeting, allowing our loyal international Fellows and attendees to earn continuing education through the Academy. Details will be forthcoming.

Onsite Safety

Q: What safety measures will the Academy be planning?

A: Our top priority is the health and safety of all Academy 2021 Boston attendees, corporate partners, exhibitors, and staff. In planning for a live meeting, and in partnership with the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC), the Academy will adhere to all local, state, and CDC regulations and guidelines.^

While health and safety guidelines continue to evolve, the Academy will abide by all recommendations in place, which still may include:

- Required use of masks
- Increased spacing to enable social distancing
- Smaller capacity meeting rooms
- Increased directional signage
- Attendee service areas designated to limited contact
- Additional hand sanitizing stations
- Enhanced cleaning schedules
- Designated onsite medical professionals to assist as needed

*Food/beverage planning for events is subject to change as guidelines are updated and in accordance with the hotels safety policies and procedures.

^Subject to change as guidelines are updated.