



ONLINE WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

General Information

October, 2026

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A. ABOUT COECSA

The College of Ophthalmology of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (COECSA) is a specialized virtual college. The college was registered in 2012 with the aim to address the chronic shortage of ophthalmologists in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) as well as improve the quality of eye care services in the region.

COECSA's mandate is to support development of human resource for health through quality training in ophthalmology at residency and subspecialty level; set standards for professional ophthalmic practice; facilitate continuing professional development; contribute to health policy development; advocate for relevant policy changes in the region; promote research which advances ophthalmology in the region; and, create a forum for the ophthalmic practitioners to promote the profession and exchange skills and knowledge.

The Colleges primary geographic focus is the ECSA region currently comprising of 12 countries. These include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Malawi. Others are Ethiopia, Zambia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Somalia and Mozambique.

B. THE COECSA WRITTEN EXAMS

1) Background

COECSA now developed and administers its own written examinations that supplements the traditional Clinical Fellowship Exam. This allows the COECSA Exam to be a complete stand-alone pathway to qualification as an Ophthalmologist, when complemented by training in an accredited facility that delivers and tracks learning as described in the COECSA Residency curriculum.

The written exam is also a pre-requisite to sitting the COECSA Fellowship Exam for any ophthalmologist who would like to become Fellows of the College. The COECSA Fellowship is awarded after completion of the four (4) Exams namely;

- **Written Part 1A:** Visual/Basic Ophthalmic Sciences
- **Written Part 1B:** Optics, Refraction and Instruments
- **Written Part 2:** Clinical Ophthalmology
- **Clinical Fellowship Part 3:** OSCE and VIVA

In 2027, the Exams calendar will be as follows:

- A) WRITTEN EXAMS SESSION 1: JANUARY 2027 (third week) – **Written Part 2: Clinical Ophthalmology.**
- B) WRITTEN EXAMS SESSION 2: MARCH 2027 (fourth week) – **Written Part 1A & 1B: Visual/Basic Sciences, and Optics, Refraction and Instruments**
- C) WRITTEN EXAMS SESSION 3: JUNE 2027 (third week) - **Written Part 2: Clinical Ophthalmology.**
- D) WRITTEN EXAMS SESSION 4: SEPTEMBER 2027 – (fourth week) **Written Part 1A & 1B: Basic Sciences, and Optics, Refraction and Instruments**
- E) CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP EXAMS: AUGUST 2027 (just before the Congress) – **Part 3: OSCE and VIVA**

2) Eligibility

a) Written Part 1A and Part 1B

- ✓ A Resident who has been in training for at least 12 months will be eligible to sit for Part 1A and/or Part 1B.
- ✓ A practicing Ophthalmologist who would like to become a Fellow of COECSA or wish to assess their ophthalmic knowledge will be eligible.
- ✓ A candidate can sit Part 1A and Part 1B during the same sitting, and in any order.

b) Written Part 2

- ✓ A candidate will be eligible to sit for Part 2 Exams after passing Part 1A and Part 1B.
- ✓ A candidate who sat and passed ICO Part 1A and Part 1B before June 2023, will be eligible to sit Part 2 Exam.

3) Exemptions

- ✓ Candidates who have sat and passed ICO Exams before June 2023, will be exempt from sitting the corresponding COECSA written exam paper to qualify for the next exam. They will only be required to provide proof of having sat and passed the corresponding ICO exams, and apply to be awarded the equivalent COECSA certificate for any Part passed.
- ✓ There will be no exemption for qualified Ophthalmologists who would like to become fellows of the College, except as above. Qualified ophthalmologists will be required to sit and pass all the COECSA written exams before sitting the Clinical Fellowship Exam.

4) Registration/Application

A candidate who meets the eligibility requirements in (3) above, will be required to complete the online application process at this link: <https://coecsa.online-ap1.com/>, once the application process commence. They will also be required to complete the subsequent verification process by providing proof of eligibility as will be requested by COECSA.

5) Examination Centers

Candidates will be required to sit for the COECSA Written Exam in an accredited examination center nearest to them. Information on the accredited Examination Centers will be availed during the application process.

6) Exam Fees

The fees for the Written Exams are as Follows;

- a) Written Part 1A: Visual/Basic Ophthalmic Sciences = **\$175**
- b) Written Part 1B: Optics and Refraction = **\$145**
- c) Written Part 2: Clinical Ophthalmology = **\$250**

Candidates will only be required to pay the fees upon formal acceptance to sit the Exam. Payments should be made to:

Account Name: Ophthalmologist COECSA
Account number: 0100000199944
Bank Name: Stanbic Bank
Branch Name: Upperhill Medical Centre Branch
Bank Address: Upperhill Medical Centre, Ralph Bunche Road, Nairobi
Swift Code: SBICKENX
Currency: USD

Other payment options will be made available during the application process. Note that, **regardless of payment mode, payment information must be updated on the online application portal by individual applicants**, in order to complete the application process.

7) January 2027 timetable

The date for the next written exam is **22nd January, 2027**. The start times are as below.

- **Part 2 – Clinical Ophthalmology:** 09.00Am – 12.30Pm (EAT)

C. CONCLUSION

COECSA will continue to foster mutually beneficial partnerships aimed at improving the number and quality of eye care workers in ECSA region, and ensuring the delivery of high-quality regional examinations.

The College will continue to promote the excellence of eyecare, by encouraging individuals to acquire and maintain a high standard of Ophthalmic knowledge for the practice of Ophthalmology. The COECSA Written Exams are part of this goal.

For further information and/or clarifications, write to: exams@coecsa.org .

Thank you and all the best!

The Exams Team