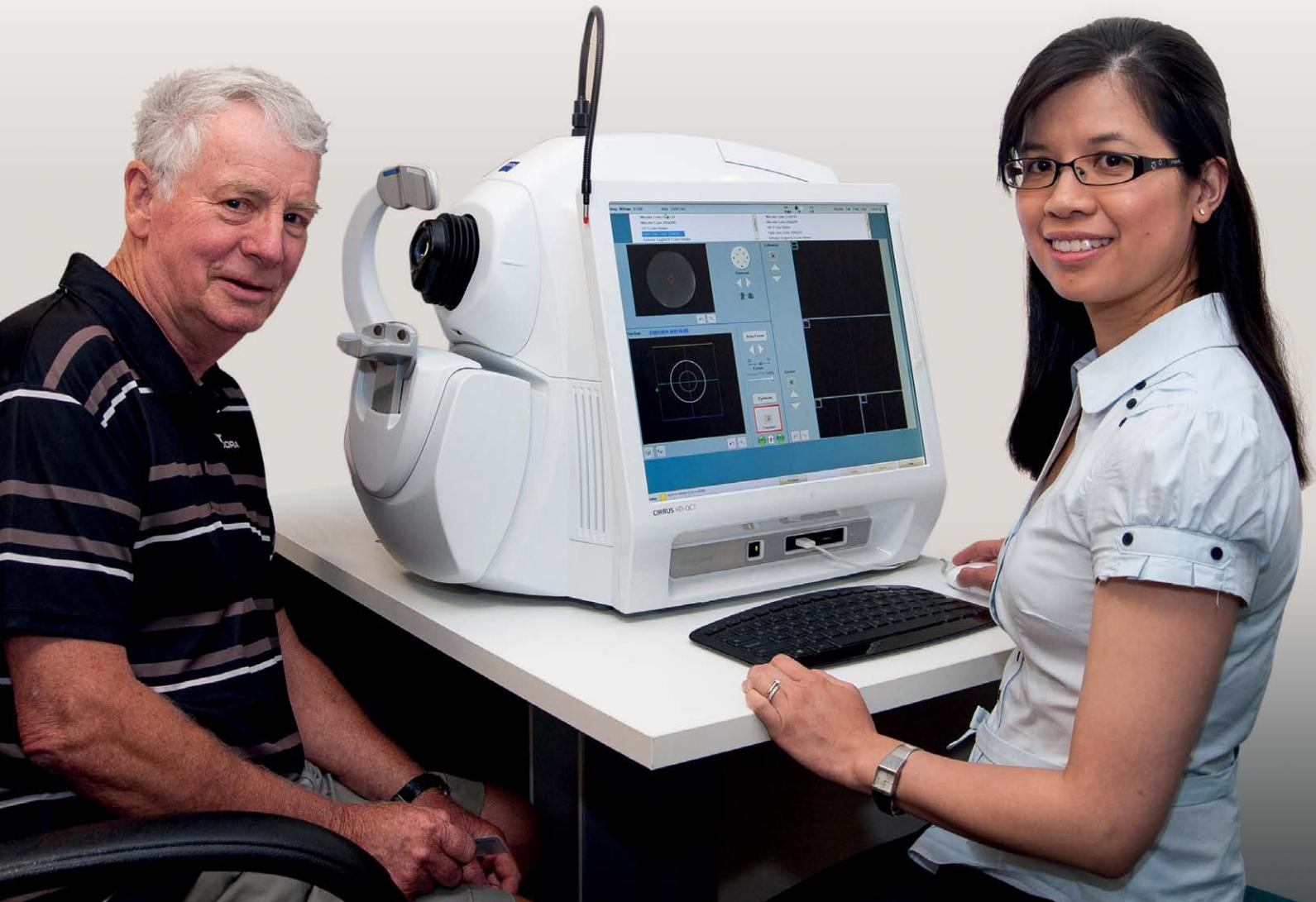




AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY
CLINICAL SERVICES • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

ACO-GAP

GLAUCOMA *Self*-ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



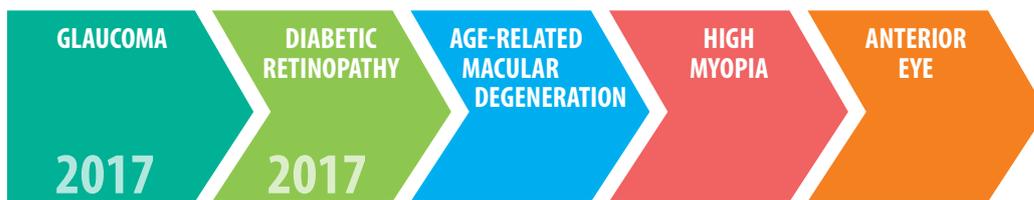
NEW ACO EDUCATION PROGRAM

The ACO has launched the first in a series of new and unique online programs for optometrists to enable them to self assess their knowledge of specific eye conditions and their ability to provide an initial diagnosis of the condition, within a simulated and timed patient consultation.

The program developed by the ACO in consultation with the wider optometry community, was piloted by registered optometrists (including ACO members) and aims to ultimately support the delivery of best practice eye health care.

The first program to be released is for initial glaucoma diagnosis and will be followed by other self-assessment programs including diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, high myopia and anterior eye.

Self-assessment & education pipeline



The self-assessment programs are developed by optometrists for optometrists and aim to:

- Assess an individual's level of skill in diagnosing ocular diseases in a simulated and timed patient consultation
- Develop proficiency in the interpretation of patient test results and apply best practice standards and procedures regarding treatment and
- Provide personalised feedback based on current industry guidelines and education pathways to facilitate personal development through further learning.



ACO-GAP GLAUCOMA SELF-ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The new ACO-GAP program provides optometrists with the ability to self assess their glaucoma diagnostic skills online within a simulated and timed patient consultation using real life patient case studies.

This new ACO-GAP program aims to assist optometrists in assessing their diagnostic knowledge and selecting further education to improve any learning gaps.

Nine clinical skills are assessed by using real and practical case studies reflecting critical thinking and decision making processes which occur in clinical practice. A time cap on each test presents an additional level of real-time challenge.

The program provides colour coded results, benchmarking against peers, specific tailored feedback and ACO further education options.

Best practice standards

The evidence based program was developed using the NHMRC 2010 guidelines on glaucoma diagnosis and management as well as the recommended guidelines from White and Goldberg (2014) on collaborative care of glaucoma patients and suspects by ophthalmologists and optometrists in Australia.

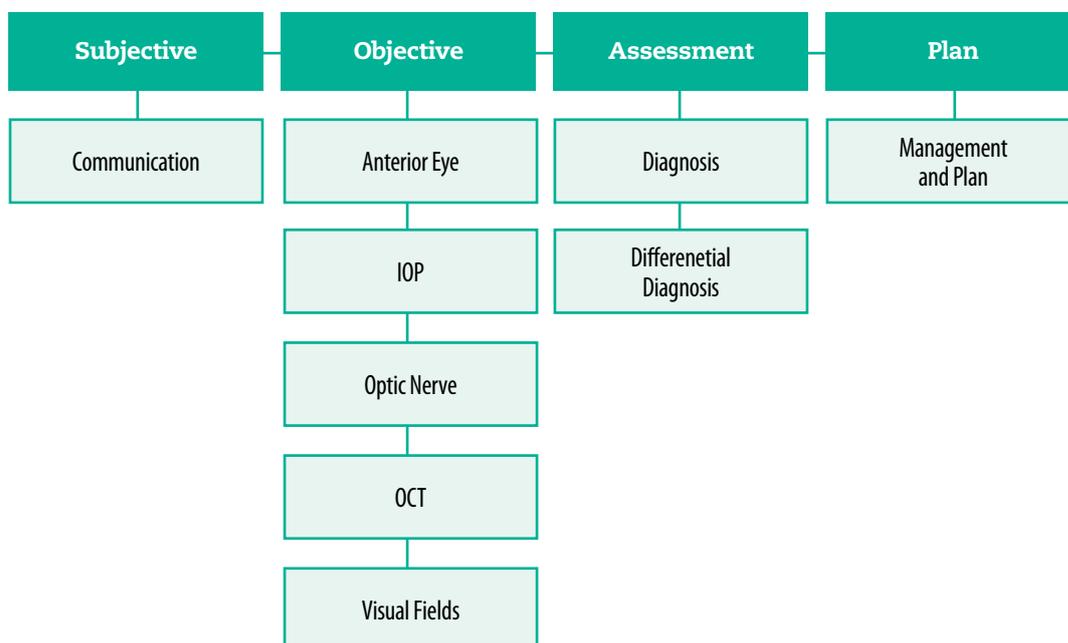
The ACO-GAP program aims to facilitate learning, reinforce best practice standards and provides a guide for further professional development and training needs based on an individual optometrist's skill development needs.

Methodology

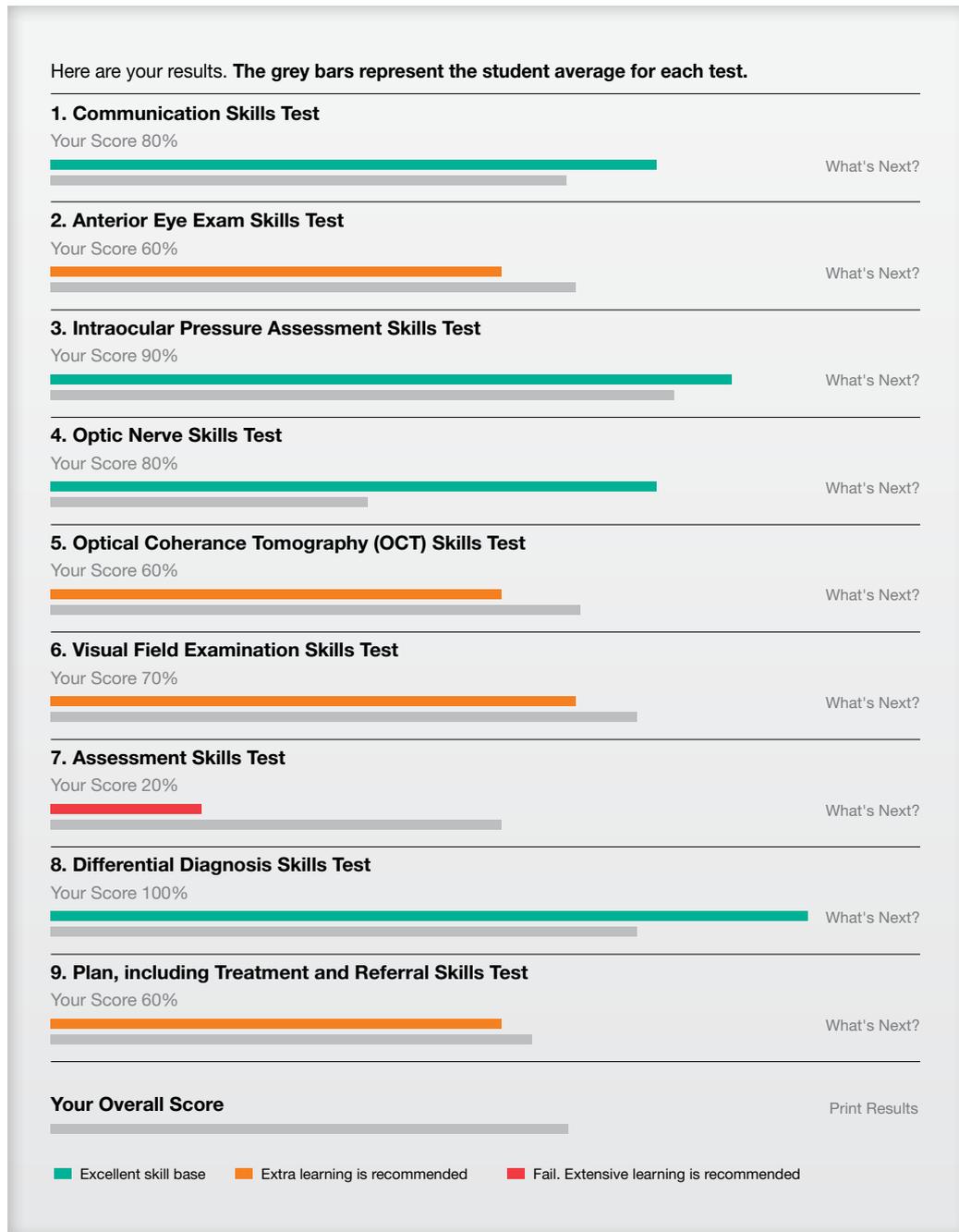
The ACO-GAP Glaucoma Self-Assessment Program, piloted by practicing optometrists, uses a rigorous approach and assesses nine glaucoma diagnostic skills; communication, anterior eye, intraocular pressure, optic nerve, optical coherence tomography (OCT), visual field examination, assessment, differential diagnosis planning, including treatment and referral.

The skills are based around the SOAP format i.e. Subjective, Objective, Assessment and Plan, and there are time limits set against each skill being tested. Over 90 per cent of the material presented requires some degree of visual or data interpretation.

ACO-GAP clinical assessment breakdown



GLAUCOMA SELF-ASSESSMENT & EDUCATION RESULTS



Benchmarking

For the first time in Australian optometric education, the individual and overall scores for individual optometrists will be benchmarked against other users who have also completed the module. Each program user will also be able to re-sit the test within 12 months in order to re assess their progress.

The online program takes between 45–75 minutes to complete and will provide a guide for further study options.

What's next – ACO education options

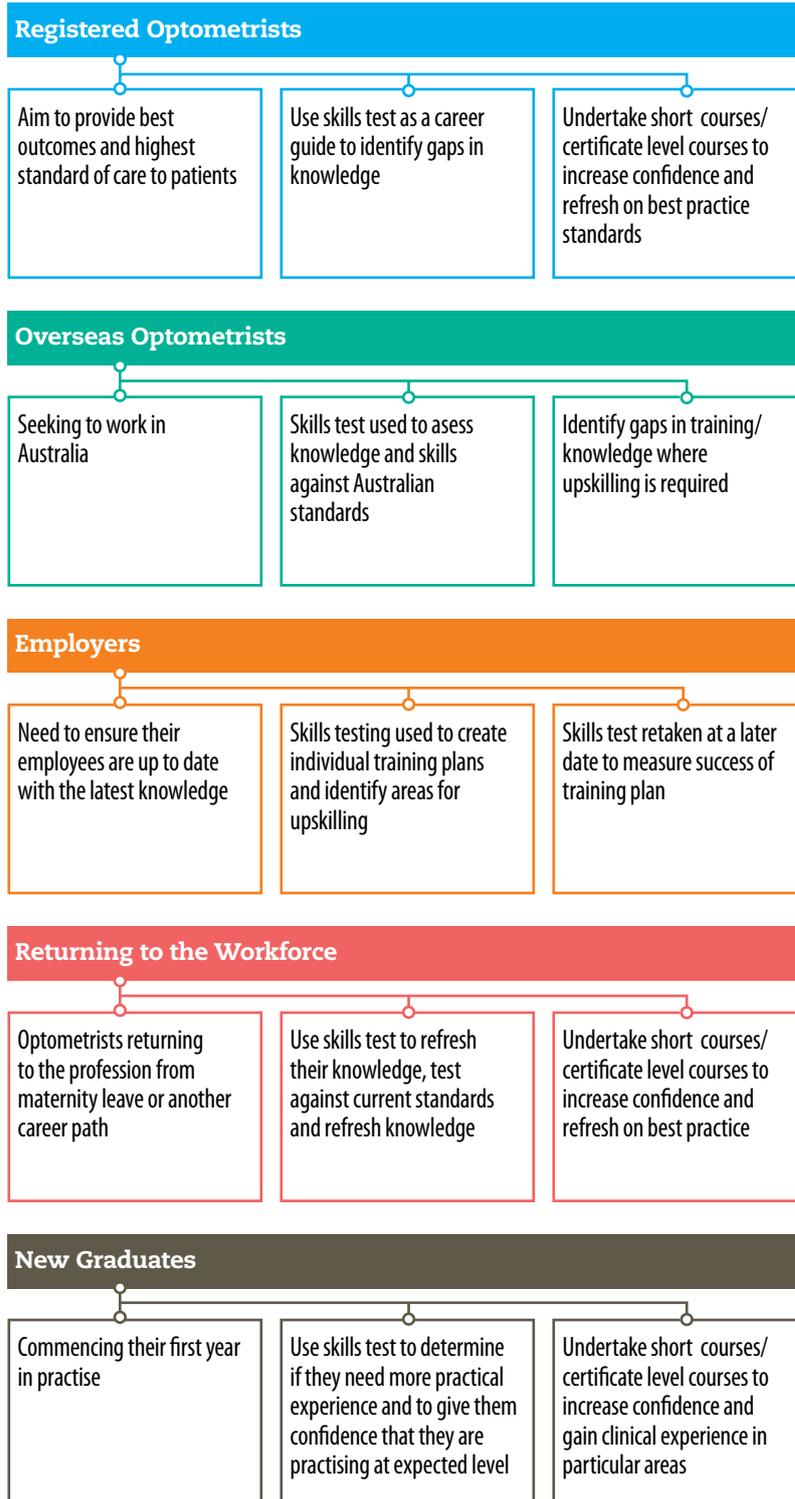
Further ACO education options against each skill tested are available by pressing the Whats next button. ACO Education options include the Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma. For a full list of available courses and programs visit www.aco.org.au.

Program overview

All 90 questions are based on real and practical cases across the nine skill sets. Once finished the optometrist is provided with a colour coded results page showing strengths and weaknesses across the nine skills, their individual score across each skill and an overall total score.

This feedback provides the user with a quick overview of their level of skill in diagnosing glaucoma. Against each skill tested, a 'what's next' icon will lead them to further education options to improve that skill. This will support the development of individual learning goals by identifying areas for further development.

Who is this program for?



Who can benefit from undertaking this program?

The ACO-GAP program is designed as a reflective educational tool and will be particularly valuable for practicing optometrists who seek to identify learning opportunities and test their skills against industry standards and their peers. Early career optometrists who have not had extensive experience identifying specific eye conditions, and optometrists who have been out of the workforce for some time, will find it particularly useful as will employers, as a development tool for their employees.

Program benefits

- Online, iPad and PC compatible
- Simulates timed patient consultation
- Excellent training, refresher tool
- Facilitates tailored professional development plans
- Individual and confidential skill self-assessment and peer benchmarking
- CPD points available
- 45–75 minute duration.

Pricing and limited offer

Each program costs AU \$100 plus GST and is redeemable until 31 June 2018 on other ACO Education including the ACO Conference, Advanced Certificates, Clinical Workshops and Webinars. Your credit must be used in one transaction within 12 months from the date you purchased the self-assessment module. The credit cannot be used towards another self-assessment program or towards ACO membership fees, products or cash.

**For detailed information and an application form
visit www.aco.org.au**

HOW TO APPLY –

- ▶ **CALL (03) 9349 7477**
- ▶ **Go to www.aco.org.au**
- ▶ **Complete the application form**