

## UHCO Fall 2021 In-Person CE Conference Information

### *Your Questions Answered*

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## Registration

### Why can't I register for 8 hours only before the Phase 1 deadline?

UHCO's commitment to creating a healthy environment for all participants includes increased seating spacing to allow for physical distancing. With limited seating available, UHCO will utilize a phased registration calendar:

- Phase 1 is open NOW for full-time registrants
  - Full-time = 16 hours on Saturday AND Sunday
- Phase 2 launch dates varies by conference for part-time registrants
  - Part-time = 8 hours on Saturday OR Sunday
  - Part-time registration is subject to space availability
  - To locate Phase 2 launch dates:
    - Visit UHCO's [LIVE PROGRAM LISTINGS](#)
    - Click on the applicable conference
    - Select the Registration tab to view complete phase information for that conference

### Can I register for 16 hours to secure my seat, but only attend one day?

Yes! Registering for 16 hours guarantees your seat for the weekend regardless if you attend all 16 hours. Entry and exit times will be notated and credit will be awarded according to time spent in lectures.

### Why can't I register for the PR only, as I have in the past?

Due to limited seating capacities, courses are not available for standalone purchase. The Professional Responsibility Course is available for purchase for online CE credit [HERE](#).

## General Conference Logistics

### Can I attend this meeting virtually?

No, conferences are only available for in-person, on-site, attendance.

### Will the lectures be recorded/available online?

No, the lectures presented at UHCO's in-person, on-site, conferences will not be recorded or available online.

### How will I receive course materials?

One week prior to the conference start date, registered participants will receive Conference Logistics Information along with Lecture Handouts, electronically via e-blast. The e-blast will be sent to the email you use to register for the conference.

### Are there going to be company reps?

Yes! Optometric Vendors will be on-site to display, demo, and discuss their products with you. They are just as eager as you to attend in-person events and re-connect with the optometry community.

### What is the food situation?

UHCO will work with each venue to select food and beverage menus that may:

- Provide plated meals or grab-and-go options
- Utilize banquet staff to distribute food and beverage items
- Use contactless systems when available

### Can my spouse/family/friends eat lunch with us?

Unfortunately, due to limited seating capacities, UHCO will not be able to accommodate non-registered guests for meals.

## Safety Protocols

### Do I have to wear a mask?

No, participants are not required to wear masks. As a state institution, UHCO is following Governor Abbott's Executive Order No. GA-36 which prohibits governmental entities and officials from mandating face coverings. Click [HERE](#) to view the entire order.

While there is no requirement to wear a mask, per CDC recommendations, unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to do so while in attendance at UHCO conferences. CDC recommendations for unvaccinated individuals attending large gatherings can be found [HERE](#).

### Do I have to be vaccinated to attend?

No, participants are not required to be vaccinated to attend UHCO conferences per Governor Abbott's Executive Order No. GA-35. For complete details, click [HERE](#).

### How much space will we have?

Per [Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-34](#), in-person events hosted by UHCO this fall will operate at 100%. However, for the comfort and wellbeing of those in attendance, seating spacing will be increased to provide physical distancing.

### How many people will be in attendance?

With increased physical distancing in meeting spaces, total attendance capacity will be limited. Capacities will vary by venue and not exceed, on average, 190 participants per location.

### Will there be anyone else sharing the conference event space?

Meeting space contracted by UHCO will not be shared with other groups; however, common spaces, such as foyers, restrooms, elevators, etc., may be utilized by organizations hosting on-site events, as well as hotel guests. All venues for UHCO conferences are following enhanced cleaning protocols, particularly in high traffic, common areas.

### What are the hotel cleaning protocols?

Venues selected by UHCO meet or exceed state, local and/or CDC protocols for events in the following areas:

- Food and Water Safety
- Hygiene and Infection Prevention
- Hotel Operations

To locate the enhanced cleaning procedures for the conference you wish to attend:

- Visit UHCO's [LIVE PROGRAM LISTINGS](#)
- Click on the applicable conference
- View the Conference Protocols & Registration Information section of the Event Info tab.

### Will there be hand sanitizing materials available?

Yes, venues will have hand sanitizing stations available. Additionally, UHCO will supply each participant with a personal-sized hand sanitizer.

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We encourage you to register early to secure your seat!

Visit our [website](#) to explore alternate format options.

If you have additional questions, please contact us at [optce@central.uh.edu](mailto:optce@central.uh.edu).

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