Applied Optics
Review Criteria

Applied Optics publishes peer-reviewed articles related to applications-centered research in optics, photonics, imaging, and sensing. Articles should concentrate on moving the potential of science and technology to the practical. Articles introduce new science or technology in an optics discipline in the form of increased understanding or a novel application of an existing topic. Articles are in-depth and should include the development and performance of technologies when applying theories.

To meet *Applied Optics* goal of publishing timely and high-impact research, submitted papers are subjected to critical review according to the criteria listed below. Manuscripts judged by reviewers as moderate in the first three criteria (appropriateness, technical quality & completeness, and significance) will not be accepted for publication in *Applied Optics*.

Appropriateness for Applied Optics
Does the subject material fall within the scope of the journal? Will the paper be of interest to the applied optics community?
Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low

Quality, Depth, and Completeness of Content
Does the manuscript provide increased understanding related to the applications of optics, photonics, sensing, or imaging? Is the paper an original and significant contribution to the field? Is the topic covered in depth? Is the topic covered completely, e.g., theory, simulation, experimentation, and analysis? Does the topic provide design guidelines or explain limitations on implementations of theory? Are the conclusions supported by the data presented, and is the work placed in proper context? Is prior or related work adequately referenced? Note that papers considered to be incremental, incomplete, or lacking in scientific or technical relevance are likely to be rejected. Does the work warrant publication in an archival journal?
Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low

Significance
Reviewers are asked to rate the significance of submitted papers assuming appropriate revisions are made. What likely impact will the submitted paper have on the research field covered? Significant papers are expected to explore unanswered practical issues. They can make an impact through novel results, in-depth analysis, address important problems, provide new theoretical insights, or present clear methods, procedures, or reviews to help other researchers perform similar work.
Rating Options: High, Moderate, Low

Quality of Presentation
Is the title accurate and does it clearly identify the subject matter? Is the abstract succinct and comprehensible to a non-specialist? Is the manuscript clearly written and logically organized? Are figures and tables understandable and readable as submitted, including all captions and labels? Is the quality of English language usage and grammar appropriate for an archival journal (note that *Applied Optics* articles are minimally copy-edited)?
Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low

Appropriateness of Supplementary Material

Visualizations (videos, 2D images, 3D images), tabular data, or citations to datasets in external repositories should be integral to understanding the article and support the results reported. Custom code and design files are acceptable to include as additional information, which is helpful to readers.
A Supplemental Document (PDF) may provide expanded descriptions of materials and methods.
• Is the supplementary material openly accessible, understandable, and readable?
• Does the supplementary material contribute to presentation of the results?
• If a Supplemental Document (PDF) is included, is the information useful and worthwhile for the reader?
• Is the manuscript coherent without the supplemental PDF file?
Rating Options: High, Moderate, Low, Not Applicable