

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic Optometry Residency Program in Primary Care with an Emphasis in Ocular Disease

Mission of the Residency Program

The Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida in conjunction with NOVA Southeastern University College of Optometry offers a one-year residency in Primary Care Optometry with an emphasis in Ocular Disease. The mission of the program is to provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an advanced educational experience that will enhance clinical skills in both primary eye care and ocular disease. Individuals completing the program will be able to deliver an advanced level of optometric care in a clinical setting, practice in co-management and multidisciplinary practices, and/or serve as clinical instructors at optometry schools.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1

To attract a large, diversified, and well-qualified pool of applicants.

Objectives:

1. To advertise the program in a national optometric publication that is readily available to qualified optometry students. Additional opportunities including the Nova Open House in the fall, which will be utilized when possible. The program description as available on the Nova, ASCO, and ORMatch websites will be maintained.
2. To personally contact all interested applicants and provide them with detailed information on the program and its application requirements.

Goal 2

To strengthen the resident's primary care management skills.

Objectives:

1. To ensure the resident participates in the care of at least 1,000 patients during the one-year program.
2. To provide the resident with a broad range of clinical disease encounters to include retina, cornea, glaucoma, oculo-plastics, neuro-ophthalmologic, and external disease abnormalities.

3. To provide the resident with the opportunity to practice and perform a significant number of primary care procedures including but not limited to punctal occlusion, and foreign body removal.
4. The resident will have the ability to order laboratory testing, diagnostic imaging and specialty consultations. In addition, the resident will have the opportunity to see patients referred to us on an emergency basis and on a regular basis from other healthcare specialists within the clinic.
5. The resident will have the opportunity to perform gonioscopy, automated perimetry, scleral depression, ocular photography, optical coherence tomography (OCT) and other diagnostic instrumentation throughout the year.

Goal 3

To provide post-graduate level didactic and seminar program on topics related to both optometry and ophthalmology.

Objectives:

1. The resident will participate in occasional Journal Club, slide review, and/or other various Optometry Department didactic activities throughout the year. The number of journal clubs to participate in will vary by year and availability. The program will require at least one journal club per our optometry student's semester.
2. The resident will be afforded opportunity to attend multidisciplinary grand rounds meetings as time allows throughout the year. Resident must attend at least one grand rounds session per month, either live or virtual.
3. The resident will be afforded the opportunity to attend major education meetings during the year (SECO, AOA, AAO, or FOA).

Goal 4

To enhance the resident's knowledge of advanced eye care procedures, low vision examinations, and contact lens examinations.

Objectives:

1. The resident will have the potential opportunity to observe ocular surgical cases, based on the specific needs of the resident.
2. The resident will develop a working knowledge of ocular photography, OCT, B-scan ultrasound, corneal topography, and HVF.
3. The resident will have the potential opportunity to observe a variety of outpatient procedures to include skin lesion removal, PRP, ALT, YAG capsulotomy, and blepharoplasty.
4. The resident will be instructed in the low vision examination of visually impaired patients and participate in their evaluation.

5. The resident will be instructed in the contact lens examination of medically indicated contact lens patients.

Goal 5

To enhance the resident's knowledge of clinical research.

Objectives:

1. The resident will become familiar with the process involved in writing a paper of such quality that it can be submitted for publication to a recognized professional journal.
2. The resident is provided access to NSUs online medical library by using their NSU ID number, on-line Scientific Direct via Jacksonville VA OPC computers, and the Gainesville VAMC science library.

Goal 6

To enhance the communication, teaching, and supervisory skills of the resident.

Objectives:

1. The resident will assist in the supervising and teaching of optometry students.
2. The resident will interact daily with faculty, staff, and trainees of the Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic.
3. The resident will learn how to initiate consultations, provide communication concerning the patient's ocular and medical status, and coordinate follow up of consultative services both within and external to the VA system.

Goal #7: To impartially evaluate and provide feedback to the resident based on these goals.

Objectives:

1. The resident will be evaluated by each clinical preceptor at least three times per year.
2. All lectures, presentations, and grand rounds will be formerly evaluated by one of the Jacksonville VA Eye Clinic preceptors or other VA staff preceptors from the local area.
3. Patients will periodically evaluate the program using patient satisfaction surveys.

Goal #8: To impartially evaluate and receive feedback on the overall quality and effectiveness of the residency program.

Objectives:

1. Each resident will evaluate the residency program at midpoint and at the conclusion of the residency.

2. The resident shall formally evaluate the Preceptors, including the Program Coordinator at the midpoint and the conclusion of the program.
3. All preceptors, including the Program Coordinator, will meet quarterly to discuss short and long term planning of the residency.

Program Length:

The residency program is one year long starting July 1 and ending June 30.

Compensation and Benefits

Resident's compensation is determined by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations. The current stipend is \$35,063. The salary is not contingent upon productivity. Paid sick leave, holidays, and vacation are also included. The resident has the opportunity to acquire partially subsidized health and dental insurance through the federal government. Specific information about these benefits will be provided in the new employee orientation at the Gainesville VAMC during the orientation process.

Liability under the Federal Tort Claims act is provided to all residents for professional duties performed with the VA. Residents are also covered for external rotations under the Federal Employees Liability and Tort Compensation Act but this does not apply to moonlighting.

In addition, all residents have access to NSU's online medical library.

Curriculum

1. DIDACTIC EDUCATION
 - a. Attend assigned optometry staff lectures/journal club. Journal clubs will occur at least once per student externship's semester.
 - b. Resident must attend at least one grand rounds session per month, either live or virtual.
 - c. Residents are encouraged to attend at least one of the major educational meetings (ie. AAO, AOA Congress, SECO).
 - d. Review and continually update a collection of clinically relevant journal articles / continuing education handouts (given throughout the residency).
2. CLINICAL EXPERIENCES
 - a. Provide eye care for patients with a wide variety of systemic and ocular diseases including: diabetes, hypertension, vascular disease, glaucoma, cataracts, anterior segment diseases, refractive surgery, age related macular degeneration, and neuro-ocular disease.
 - b. Perform diagnostic testing including: automated perimetry, OCT, corneal pachymetry, B scan ultrasonography, photography, etc.

- c. Enter patient records into Computerized Patient Record System.
 - d. Review and triage consults from other members of the professional staff.
 - e. Order and review laboratory, radiographic and vascular imaging studies.
 - f. Coordinate patient care with primary care providers and specialists.
 - i. Opportunity will be given to participate in either observation or direct patient care at external clinic sites: to-be-determined.
3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
- a. Give at least two grand rounds lectures to the staff and students.
 - b. Participate in formal Grand Rounds presentations: Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry's Residents Weekend in January annual and other sites to be announced. Dates to be announced.
 - c. Prepare an article of publishable quality for a peer-reviewed journal.
 - d. Optional: Work with a member of the Optometry staff to prepare a poster for one of the major educational meetings (ie. AAO, AOA, SECO).
 - e. Supervise optometry students during last quarter of the year or when approved by Program Coordinator.

Residents are expected to attend and be on time for all clinical assignments, lectures, conferences, seminars, and any other scheduled meetings. Residents are expected to comply with and meet all assignment deadlines, whether written or verbal.

Tentative Weekly Schedule

Monday

7:30am – 4:00pm Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA

Tuesday

7:30am – 12:00pm Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA

1:00pm – 4:00pm Education / Administrative Time Jacksonville VA

Wednesday

7:30am – 10:00am Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA

10:00am – 4:00pm Low Vision Clinic Jacksonville VA

Thursday

7:30am – 8:30am Didactic Activities / Grand Rounds Lectures

8:30am – 4:00pm Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA

Friday

7:30am – 4:00pm Contact Lens Clinic Jacksonville VA (every other week alternates with Primary Care)

Optometry Resident will also see urgent and extra patients of staff optometrists as requested on all days. There are no after hours responsibilities. Various lectures, time spent in other specialty clinics, and observation of surgeries/procedures will be arranged as they become available.

Program Sponsor and Affiliate

Sponsor: Jacksonville Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic

Academic Affiliate: Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

Clinical Affiliates: Malcom Randall VA Medical Center, Gainesville, Florida (pending)

Resident Eligibility Criteria

The following qualifications are required to apply for the resident program:

1. Candidates must possess an OD degree from an ACOE-accredited institution or be in their final year of training at such an institution.
2. Candidates must have passed Part I of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examination and either have passed part II or be scheduled to sit for Part II of the examination at the time of application.
3. Candidates should have a grade point average greater than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
4. By law, candidates must be citizens of the United States.
5. Candidates must be eligible for licensure as an optometrist in the State of Florida and must obtain licensure in Florida or another state.

Non-discrimination Policy: In Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Older Americans Amendments of 1975, no candidate will be discriminated against based upon race, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or non-disqualifying physical impairment.

Application Process

Candidates must register with the Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMatch) utilized by submitting a completed application. Applications to ORMatch must be completed by February 1st for consideration. The following must be received by the program director for consideration as a residency applicant:

1. Name, address, phone number, and email address
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Official transcripts of NBEO scores
4. Official transcripts of optometric education
5. Minimum of three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the academic and/or clinical abilities of the applicant sent directly from the reference to the Jacksonville VA Eye Clinic.
6. Brief statement from the applicant regarding his/her desire to complete this residency program.

Interviews will be requested of specific candidates based upon the quality of the credentials and application information. The qualified applicants are interviewed by an interview team, which consists of optometric faculty of the Jacksonville VA OPC. The Program Coordinator and interview team will rank applicants in order of merit based on the applicant's qualifications as well as personal and professional characteristics. The Program Coordinator will seek input from other faculty members and staff of the VA Eye Clinic and may seek input from the Residency Director from Nova Southeastern in developing this ranking. The list will be submitted to the matching service. At the same time, candidates will submit an independent list of their preferred programs. ORMatch will notify both the candidates and programs of the match results. In the event that a match does not occur for the Jacksonville program, the Program Coordinator will pursue interested applicants from the remaining unmatched pool or any other qualified candidate.

Requirements for Completion

Satisfactory completion of the residency requires all of the following to be met:

- Arrive on time for and attend all scheduled clinics, lectures, and seminars
- Participation and completion of all assigned clinical duties
- Satisfactory preparation and delivery of all scholarly assignments
- Preparation of a manuscript of publishable quality
- Performance of all additional duties as assigned by the Residency Coordinator
- Receipt of satisfactory evaluations from all faculty members

At the successful completion of the residency, each resident will receive a certificate of completion, signed by the Residency Program Coordinator, the Director of Residency Programs, and the Dean of the College.