

## **OPTOMETRY RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

The Primary Eye Care Residency Program at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center is a collaborative effort between the VA Medical Center, Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, and the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology. The residency program offers advanced and comprehensive training in hospital-based primary eye care, ocular disease, and geriatrics in an interdisciplinary setting. Residents become proficient in diagnosing, treating and managing ocular diseases, as well as managing patients with low vision and contact lens needs.

### **PROGRAM MISSION**

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 residency 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.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

The goals of the program include the following:

- To attract a large, diversified and well-qualified pool of applicants.
- To strengthen the resident's primary care management skills
- To provide an extensive post-graduate level didactic and seminar program on topics related to both optometry and ophthalmology
- To enhance the resident's knowledge of advanced eye care procedures, low vision examinations, and contact lens examinations
- To enhance the resident's knowledge of how to prepare a manuscript of publishable quality
- To enhance the communication, teaching, and supervisory skills of the resident

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Primary Eye Care Residency Program is a fully accredited one-year residency, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending June 30<sup>th</sup> the following year. It consists of three full-time salaried positions.

The program is designed to provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an advanced educational experience through direct patient care; attendance at lectures, seminars, grand rounds, and journal clubs; preparation of a manuscript of publishable quality; and clinical supervision of 4<sup>th</sup>-year optometry externs.

Residents are assigned to work 40 hours/week, 52 weeks per year excluding federal holidays, authorized absences, annual and sick leave. Residents are assigned from 7:30-4:00/4:30 pm Monday- Friday with additional assigned lectures from 7:15-8:15 at University of Florida's Department of Ophthalmology. There are no on-call duties. Primary resident duties are provision of comprehensive and specialty optometry care at our two facilities. The level of care provided is based on the scope of practice allowed by the resident's particular state licensure as well as by demonstrated competence as evaluated by the program faculty. Residents have the opportunity to work in our low vision, contact lens, neuro-ophthalmology, glaucoma, uveitis, and cornea clinics. Special arrangements can be made for retina specialty observation and to observe ocular surgeries.

### **THE EYE CLINIC**

The VA Medical Center Eye Clinic is composed of two clinics, one that combines optometry and ophthalmology in a single clinical setting, and another purely staffed by optometrists. The Optometry section is staffed by 6 full-time optometrists, 2 part time optometrists, 3 optometry residents, and up to 4 optometry externs.

The Ophthalmology section is staffed by 5 full time ophthalmologists, 1 part time ophthalmologists (neuro-ophthalmology/plastics ophthalmology specialists), and 4 full-time ophthalmology residents. The Eye Clinic is equipped with 19 exam lanes, 2 visual field rooms, a laser treatment room, an outpatient surgical procedure room, and 2 photography rooms. Auxiliary equipment includes OCT Cirrus and Spectralis, fundus and anterior segment cameras, ORA, corneal topographer, and b scan ultrasonography unit.

### **PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS**

The Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida serves a predominantly elderly male population with a significant incidence of ocular and systemic pathology.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Candidates must possess an OD degree from an ACOE-accredited institution or be in their final year of training at such an institution
- Candidates must have passed Part I of the NBEO and either have passed or be scheduled to sit for Part II at the time of application
- By law, candidates must be citizens of the United States
- Candidates must be eligible for licensure as an optometrist in the State of Florida or another state of their choice; once matched, residents are required to obtain licensure as close to the July 1<sup>st</sup> start date as possible.
- Residency applicants will be evaluated and chosen without regard to sex, race, religion, age, national origin or handicap.
- Candidates are required to keep an up to date Basic Life Support certification.
- After successfully matching with our program, the Mandatory Training for Trainees (MTT) course must be completed prior to the start of the residency on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Candidates must register and complete an on-line application with the Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMatch) at [www.natmatch.com/ormatch](http://www.natmatch.com/ormatch)
- CV, letter of intent, transcript, and a minimum of 3 recommendation letters must be submitted through ORMatch; an official transcript must be submitted directly to the program from the Optometry College for verification
- The residency program receives all national board scores (Part I, II, III, and TMOD) directly from ORMatch.
- Candidates are scheduled for an in-person interview.
- Applicants and programs submit ORMatch ranking lists to ORMatch.
- The deadline for application to the program (and registration with ORMatch) is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## RESIDENT SALARY AND BENEFITS

The salary and benefit structure for the residency is established by the VA and is competitive with other residency programs across the nation. Details may be obtained by contacting the Malcom Randall VA. The salary for the 2023-24 year will be \$43,924.

The resident has the opportunity to acquire partially subsidized health, dental, and life insurance at the VA. Residents earn 4 hours each of annual and sick leave every 2 week pay period (13 days of annual leave/vacation). The VA provides 10 paid holidays. Authorized absence is provided to allow residents to attend one national educational meeting during the residency year. The resident also receives a day of authorized absence for state board examination. Residents are responsible for making their own housing arrangements.

## PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Residents are covered under the Federal Tort Claims act while fulfilling all assigned clinical duties at VA facilities. This coverage does not extend to non-VA facilities, and residents who wish to moonlight must acquire private personal liability insurance.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION

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

- Timely attendance of all scheduled clinics, lectures, and seminars;
- Participation and completion of all assigned clinical duties;
- Satisfactory preparation and delivery of all scholarly assignments including grand rounds presentations, journal club presentations, clinical poster and assigned lectures (including for multidisciplinary, support group, and local optometry society audiences);
- Preparation of a manuscript of publishable quality
- Performance of all additional duties as assigned by the Residency Coordinator; and
- Receipt of satisfactory evaluations from all faculty members.

At the completion of the program, the resident will receive a residency certificate signed by the Residency Coordinator, Residency Director, and Dean of the College as well as a second certificate signed by the Residency Coordinator and Optometry Service Chief.

Please contact  
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<https://www.northflorida.va.gov/NORTHFLORIDA/careers/optometry/index.asp>