

**Sergeant Ernest I. “Boots” Thomas VA Clinic
(Tallahassee)
Optometry Residency Program
Primary Care (emphasis in ocular disease)**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sergeant Ernest I. “Boots” Thomas VA Clinic in Tallahassee, Florida in conjunction with Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry offers a one year residency in primary care with an emphasis in ocular disease. The mission of the program is to provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an advanced didactic and clinical education. Upon completion of this program, doctors will be able to provide their patients with superlative care in addition to being qualified to serve as optometric educators and leaders in health care.

PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: To attract a sufficient, diversified group of well qualified applicants.

Objectives:

1. Advertise the program to all fourth year optometry students in all schools of optometry in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico through various types of written and oral communication.
2. Contact each interested applicant and provide them with detailed information on the application process and program.

Goal # 2: To select a resident through an impartial process.

Objectives:

1. The selection process will include all practicing optometrists in the facility.
2. The same questions will be asked to each candidate.
3. The selection process will include the candidate’s personal statement, curriculum vitae, official transcripts from optometry school and all post-graduate schools, test scores from

NBEO Part 1, Part II, TMOD (scores shall be submitted as soon as available) and at least 3 letters of reference (two from individuals who are familiar with the candidate's clinical skills).

4. The Residency Program Supervisor will select and rank the most qualified applicants with input from the other interviewers (practicing optometrists) at the facility. The names of the candidates will be submitted to the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMS) in agreement with their policies and deadlines.

Goal #3: To further develop the resident's optometric knowledge in clinical testing, diagnosis and management in primary care optometry/ophthalmology including low vision and ocular disease.

Objectives:

1. The resident will have the ability to order laboratory testing, diagnostic imaging and specialty consultations within the VAMC. 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 hospital.
2. The resident will have the opportunity to perform gonioscopy, automated perimetry, scleral depression, ocular photography, ocular coherence tomography and other diagnostic instrumentation throughout the year.
3. The resident will observe a number of surgical cases and participate in the pre and post-operative care of these patients whenever possible. These procedures will include but not limited to: skin/lid lesion removal, panretinal photocoagulation, cataract surgery, DSEK, LASIK, argon laser trabeculoplasty, YAG capsulotomy, pterygia removal and blepharoplasty.
4. The resident will see low vision cases in our clinic which provides what the VA terms as basic low vision services.
5. The resident will rotate with Southern Vitreoretinal Specialists (SVA) once monthly. They will observe clinical diagnosis and treatment in a tertiary setting.

Goal #4: To provide post-graduate level seminars and didactic programs on topics related to optometry and ophthalmology.

Objectives:

1. The resident will have opportunity to attend lectures given by the faculty from the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology.
2. The resident will participate in weekly journal club, slide review and/or other various didactic activities throughout the year.
3. The resident will have the opportunity to attend the 6 continuing education classes held yearly by the Northwest Florida Optometric Association (NWFOA) at no cost to him/her.

4. The resident will have the opportunity to attend the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 8 Meeting held annually that offers continuing education in addition to other major educational meetings during the year (SECO, AOA Congress or AAO Meeting).

Goal #5: To cultivate the resident's ability to communicate, teach and/or supervise as an optometric educator and/or leader in the optometric field.

Objectives:

1. The resident will assist in the supervision and teaching of other optometry students.
2. The resident may present to FAMU's College of Pharmacy on a topic in accordance with their requirements for a diverse health education.
3. The resident will present a grand rounds case to other residents within the VISN 8 at least twice a year.
4. The resident will learn how to initiate consults to other healthcare providers, 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.
5. The Resident Supervisor will provide guidance and assist him/her when necessary to achieve this goal.

Goal #6: To enhance the resident's knowledge about clinical research.

Objectives:

1. The resident will prepare a manuscript of publishable quality, with feedback and guidance provided by the residency supervisor.
2. The resident is provided access to NSU's online medical library by using their NSU ID number, on-line Scientific Direct via TOPC computers, and the Lake City VAMC science library.

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 bi-annually.
2. The resident's teaching will be evaluated anonymously by the student externs quarterly.
3. All lectures, presentations, and grand rounds will be formally evaluated by one of the preceptors.
4. Patients may periodically evaluate the program through the use of 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 Residency Program Supervisor at the conclusion of the program.
3. All preceptors, including the Residency Supervisor, will meet quarterly to discuss short and long term planning of the residency.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

A resident's compensation is determined by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations. For 2019-2020, the stipend is \$34,882. The salary is not contingent upon productivity. 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 first month of employment.

Liability Protection under the Federal Tort Claims act is provided to all residents for professional duties performed within 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.

All residents are provided with an email account via NSU. In addition, all residents have access to NSU's online medical library by using their NSU ID number. This may be obtained by visiting with following website: <http://www.nova.edu/cwis/oit/nsuidentity.html>

EXPECTATIONS FOR RESIDENTS

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.

Residents are expected to be prepared to assist in clinical teaching activities above and beyond those listed on the officially published schedule; in this event, advanced notice by the Residency Director or Supervisor will given as soon as is possible.

Above all, the residency is an educational experience, and every consideration toward this goal should be given by all parties concerned.

TENATIVE RESIDENT SCHEDULE

Monday

7:40am-12:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm-5:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

Tuesday

7:40am-12:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm-5:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

Wednesday

7:40am-12:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm-5:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

Thursday

7:00am-7:40am Conference/Journal Club

7:40am-12:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm-5:00pm Low Vision

Friday (alternating Fridays will be a day off)

7:40am-12:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm-5:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

Special arrangements can be made for residents to observe various retina and corneal surgeries. Residents are generally scheduled their own schedule of patients, but are also responsible for seeing all emergency consults during the day. Attending doctors in the clinic will help with the resident's scheduled patients as needed to allow the resident to see the emergent patients.

RESIDENT CURRICULUM

1. DIDACTIC EDUCATION

- a. Attend weekly optometry conferences/journal club.
- b. Regularly attend continuing education sponsored by the Northwest Florida Optometric Society.
- c. May attend continuing education classes at the VISN 8 Optometry Meeting.
- d. Encouraged to attend at least one of the Major Educational Meetings (ie. AAO, AOA Congress, SECO).
- e. 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.
 - g. External Rotations with a retinologist, glaucoma specialist, and cornea/cataract surgeon
 - h.
3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
- a. Give grand rounds lectures to other residents.
 - b. Conduct periodic diabetic education to veterans at the clinic.
 - c. Work with a member of the Optometry staff to prepare an article of publishable quality for a peer-reviewed journal.
 - d. Supervise optometry students during at least the last quarter of the year or when approved by Residency Supervisor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION

In order to satisfactorily complete the residency in primary care, each resident must achieve of the following:

1. Arrive on time for all scheduled clinics, lectures and/or seminars
2. Prepare and deliver on time all scheduled assignments
3. Attend and actively participate during journal reviews
4. Receive a satisfactory evaluation from all residency supervisors
5. Prepare a manuscript of publishable quality by deadlines given
6. Satisfactorily perform additional duties assigned by the Residency Supervisor.

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

APPLICATION PROCESS/REQUIREMENTS

- Candidates must register and complete the application with the Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMS) website. www.optometryresident.org
- Registration with ORMatch and submission to ORMatch of the following: a brief statement detailing desire to complete a residency, CV, official transcripts, three letters

of recommendation, and test scores from NBEO Part I, II, TMOD and III (scores shall be submitted as soon as available). Resident candidates are required to take all parts of the NBEO and be eligible for licensure in a State, Territory, or Commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia.

- By law, candidates must be citizens of the United States.
- Complete an interview in person.
- Obtain a Doctor of Optometry (O. D.) degree from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education prior to matriculation