

**RESIDENCY IN PRIMARY EYE CARE  
MALCOM RANDALL VA MEDICAL CENTER  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**



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(2 positions available)

*The Gainesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, in conjunction with the Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry and the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology, offers a one-year residency program in primary care optometry. The program is designed to provide optometry residents a comprehensive eye care experience at a tertiary-care medical center. The program combines optometry and ophthalmology training in a single setting and allows for a unique interaction between residents and faculty of the two disciplines. Primary emphasis is on direct patient care that is supplemented by seminars, grand rounds, and lectures. Preparation of a paper suitable for submission for publication is required of residents participating in the residency.*

Read more about the [Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida](#)

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**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

## **Mission of the Residency Program**

The Gainesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, in conjunction with the Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry and the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology, offers a one-year residency program in primary care optometry. The mission of the program is to provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an advanced educational experience that will enhance clinical skills in the areas of 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 serve as clinical instructors at optometry schools.

## **Goals & Objectives**

**Goal #1: To attract a large, diversified and well-qualified pool of applicants.**

### **Objectives:**

1. To inform each School and College of Optometry in the United States of the program's development and to request their assistance on a yearly basis during the recruitment process.
2. To advertise the program in a national optometric publication that is readily available to qualified optometry students.
3. 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 insure the resident examines a minimum number of patients during the one-year program.
2. To provide the resident with a broad range of clinical disease encounters to include retina, glaucoma, oculo-plastics, neuro-ophthalmologic, and external disease abnormalities.
3. To provide the resident with the opportunity to perform primary care procedures such as gonioscopy, scleral depression, foreign body removal, punctal occlusion, and dilation and irrigation of the lacrimal apparatus.

**Goal #3: To provide an extensive post-graduate level didactic and seminar program on topics related to both optometry and ophthalmology.**

Objectives:

1. The resident will attend a minimum of 75 hours of didactic lectures by faculty from the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology.
2. The resident will participate in clinical grand rounds with optometry and ophthalmology faculty, fellows, residents, and students on a weekly basis.
3. The resident will attend visiting professor lectures sponsored by the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology.
4. The resident will participate in Journal Club meetings on a regular basis.

**Goal #4: To enhance the resident's knowledge of advanced care procedures and provide the opportunity to co manage patients with ophthalmology.**

Objectives:

1. The resident will develop a working knowledge of ocular photography, optical coherence tomography (OCT), and GDX. There will also be the opportunity to analyze fluorescein angiography and OCT findings with the retinal specialist.
2. The resident will be involved in the care of patients who have had various surgical procedures including cataract surgery, PKP, trabeculectomy, glaucoma shunt placement, PRP/retinal laser procedures, vitrectomy, and various eyelid procedures. The resident will directly assist in our retina subspecialty clinic for half the year, and will directly assist with our cornea subspecialty clinic for a quarter of the year.
3. The resident will be instructed in advanced contact lens fitting and care with both rigid gas permeable and soft contact lenses, including fitting/caring for patients with keratoconus, aphakia, and anisometropia.
4. The resident will be instructed in the low vision examination of visually impaired patients and participate in their evaluation (unchanged objective).

**Goal #5: To increase 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 will attend presentations on research conducted by staff and residents of the University of Florida Ophthalmology program.

**Goal #6: To enhance the communication, teaching, and supervisory skills of the resident.**

Objectives:

1. The resident will assist in the supervision and teaching of optometry students.
2. The resident will interact on a daily basis with faculty and staff of the Gainesville VAMC and the University of Florida School of Medicine.
3. The resident will learn how to initiate consultations, provide written and verbal communication concerning the patient's ocular and medical status, and coordinate follow-up of consultative services both within and external to the VA system.

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## **CURRICULUM**

### **Didactic Education**

The resident will be required to participate in a structured educational program whose emphasis is on direct patient care. The resident will attend faculty lectures, grand rounds, journal club, and visiting professor lectures. Attendance will be taken to insure compliance with the educational requirements.

### **Patient Care**

The program is designed with an emphasis on exposing the resident to a wide diversity of patient encounters. To achieve this, the resident will participate with specialists in their particular fields of expertise. This will include rotating through retina, cornea, and glaucoma clinics on a weekly basis. The resident will also examine a significant number of primary care referrals from other practitioners in the hospital and will participate in the follow-up, referral, and co-management of these patients. The ultimate goal is to enhance the resident's ability to independently assess and treat primary care patients in a clinical setting.

To insure the goals of the program are met, a log will be maintained listing the number of patients seen, their clinical diagnoses, and any specific treatment provided by the resident.

### **Weekly Clinic Schedule**

A typical weekly clinic schedule follows:

**Monday**-7:30a-4:00p. Both optometry residents see new consult patients, return patients, and patients presenting for Humphrey visual fields in the morning. One resident sees optometry patients and the other helps see patients scheduled for ophthalmology clinic in the afternoon. Optometry residents are responsible for seeing up to four urgent consults during the day.

**Tuesday**-7:30a-4:00p. In the morning, one resident sees patients scheduled for ophthalmology clinic, the other sees patients in Low Vision clinic. In the afternoon, one resident sees patients in Contact Lens clinic, the other sees optometry patients in the first floor optometry clinic. Optometry residents are responsible for seeing up to four urgent consults during the day. (\*Each resident will be assigned for 6 months of low vision clinic and 6 months of contact lens clinic).

**Wednesday**-7:30a-4:00p. One resident participate in Retina clinic. The other sees patients in the first floor optometry clinic. Optometry residents are responsible for seeing up to four urgent consults during the day. (Each resident will be assigned to retina clinic for half the year, with alternating scheduling).

**Thursday**-7:30a-4:00p. Both optometry residents see new consult patients, return patients, and patients presenting for Humphrey visual fields in the morning. One resident sees optometry patients and the other helps see patients scheduled for ophthalmology clinic in the afternoon. Optometry residents are responsible for seeing up to four urgent consults during the day.

**Friday**-7:30a-4:00p. For the first half of the year, each resident will be assigned for three months to participate in Cornea clinic in the morning. (One resident will be assigned from July through September, the other from October through December). The resident assigned to Cornea will then see patients on the fourth floor for general optometry in the afternoon while the other resident will be assigned to see patients in the first floor optometry clinic. For the second half of the year, one resident will assigned to see optometry patients on the fourth floor throughout the day, the other will be assigned to see optometry patients in the first floor eye clinic throughout the day. Optometry residents are responsible for seeing up to four urgent consults during the day.

Lectures are scheduled two-three times per week throughout the year at the University of Florida Ophthalmology Department, at 7:15 a.m. Grand Rounds are Friday mornings at 7:15 a.m. The residents will formally meet with the Residency Coordinator the first two Wednesday mornings of each month from 7:30-8:30a. Journal clubs, slide reviews, and other didactic and administrative activities will be planned to occur during these meetings. Although not a low vision residency, the resident will be instructed in low vision techniques and perform independent exams as part of the program