

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCY

CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

The curriculum of the Primary Eye Care Residency at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (NSUCO) is a 12.5 month program, which incorporates a variety of components that aim to broaden the residents' knowledge of general eye care and the management of ocular and systemic conditions. Our Residency Program takes pride in providing a challenging environment that encourages the development of "well rounded" optometric physicians. For this reason, though primarily clinically based, the program contains many other didactic and scholarly elements. Such diversity in an educational program ensures that each resident has multiple opportunities to collect information and gain valuable practical experience.

The Primary Eye Care Residency curriculum consists of the following components:

- Supervision and direction of patient care by student clinicians (OD-3 and OD-4)
- Observation of and participation in care provided by specialized physicians
- Direct patient care
- Urgent and after-hours care
- Laboratory teaching
- Preparation of a paper of publishable quality
- Assistance in the preparation of posters and publishable abstracts
- Preparation and delivery of lectures
- Attending conferences and lectures to broaden the residents didactic knowledge
- Journal reviews and discussions
- Independent study

In addition to providing a wide variety of learning activities, the Primary Care Residency Program also provides the opportunity to work with a number of different Residency Supervisors possessing a variety of training and interests. The residents work via a rotating schedule, such that each individual may spend a period of time in a variety of clinics at The Eye Care Institute, as well as external clinical rotations with optometry, ophthalmology and interdisciplinary rotations. Primary Care Clinical Sites exist on the main campus (Davie), our downtown clinic (Broward) and North Miami Beach as well as Kids in Distress (KID). Specialty clinical sites on campus include The Advanced Care Clinic (Glaucoma, Diabetes and Macula, Electrophysiology), Pediatrics, Strabismus, Autism, Vision Therapy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Contact Lenses, Low Vision, Geriatrics and the Lighthouse. External rotations may involve general ophthalmology, neuro-ophthalmology, ocular oncology, oculoplastics, retina, glaucoma, cornea, pediatric optometry and/or ophthalmology, contact lenses, binocular vision and vision therapy, and low vision.

Each Primary Care Resident will select an **area of emphasis** in which to further their clinical knowledge. These may include **ocular disease, cornea and contact lenses, pediatrics and binocular vision and low vision rehabilitation**. Residents typically spend approximately 50-60% of their clinical time in primary care and approximately 40%-50% of their clinical time in these

specialty services. This percentage may vary depending on the area of emphasis as well as throughout the year as the assignments rotate. The type and number of patient encounters will also vary depending on the area of emphasis and nature of the clinical assignments. The schedule assignments are determined by the Director of Residency Programs and may be modified based on the needs of the College. NSUCO maintains eight positions within the Primary Eye Care Residency program; two (2) positions allowing for additional emphasis in Cornea and Contact Lenses, two (2) positions allowing for an emphasis in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision, one (1) position allowing for an emphasis in Low Visual Rehabilitation and three (3) positions allowing additional emphasis in Ocular Disease. The number of positions within each area of emphasis are determined by the Residency Director and may be changed.

In addition, all residents participate in after-hours emergency patient care and laboratory teaching of students. These activities are also conducted on a rotating basis to ensure that each resident has ample and equal exposure.

SCHOLARLY AND DIDACTIC ACTIVITIES

The Primary Eye Care Residency at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry includes a variety of didactic and scholarly activities. Residents are expected to attend regularly scheduled didactic events and conduct scholarly activity in areas relevant to patient care. Residents are required to attend lectures and discussions on a weekly basis in the Thursday morning Conference Series; which may include Bascom Palmer Grand Rounds, presentations and lectures by faculty at NSUCO or outside guest speakers on a variety of topics and journal reviews. In addition, they are strongly encouraged to attend at least one major optometric conference and any and all continuing education conferences held at the NSUCO. Professional leave and a travel stipend are provided to attend conferences. All residents must prepare a paper of publishable quality as a requirement of the residency program, and time is allotted to research and write such a paper during the course of the residency. Additional scholarly activity is both encouraged and rewarded; residents who submit and have accepted papers or posters as first author to be presented at educational meetings (e.g. AAO, AOA, SECO, ARVO) may be afforded additional time and funding to cover any registration and travel expenses pending approval by the DRP and the Dean.

NSUCO also offers a Masters in Clinical Vision Science degree. Interested residents may enroll for this program, which is entirely on line. During the residency year, the tuition will be waived by the College; however, student activities fees must still be paid. The resident would be responsible for tuition and fees to complete the degree at their own pace from any location (as it is on line) once they complete the residency.