

NSU Primary Care Residency Program

MISSION STATEMENT

The Residency in Primary Eye Care seeks to attract the best-qualified optometric graduates and provide advanced didactic and clinical education in optometry. The program offers a variety of optometric and interdisciplinary care and is designed to foster a life-long commitment to learning. Graduates of this residency program are trained to deliver superlative clinical care in primary care optometry, to serve as optometric educators, and to serve the profession of optometry as leaders within the community and health care delivery system.

GOAL #1: *To attract a sufficient number of qualified and diversified applicants.*

OBJECTIVES:

1. The Director of Residency Programs will communicate at least once during each recruitment cycle with a contact person at each school or college of optometry.
2. Information about the Primary Care Residency Program will be accessible to all fourth year optometry students throughout the country via applicable websites; such as the ASCO and ORMS webpages, as well as the Nova Southeastern University website.
3. The program will be advertised in at least one optometric publication at least once each year.
4. The Director of Residency Programs, or representative, will be available to talk with prospective candidates about the residency program at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), and other meetings when possible (e.g. AOSA, AOA, SECO, etc.)
5. All candidates who apply for the program will be contacted personally by the Director of Residency Programs, either in written (e-mail) or oral form.

GOAL #2: *To select the most qualified candidates from the pool of applicants in a fair and impartial manner.*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Every candidate will be required to submit the following application materials to the Director of Residency Programs by *February 1st* preceding the residency year:
 - a. Letter of intent
 - b. Current curriculum vitae
 - c. Official transcripts from optometry school and any other post-graduate educational program
 - d. NSU Residency Application Form
 - e. Three (3) letters of recommendation
2. A passing score from Part I of the NBEO is required to be interviewed; Part II and TMOD scores shall be submitted as soon as they are available. Candidates must pass both Part II and TMOD by the ORMS match date in order to be ranked in ORMS by March of the preceding residency year. Candidates that do not pass Part II or TMOD, but have completed their application, will not be ranked but may be considered for any remaining unfilled positions once Part I, II and TMOD have been successfully completed.

3. Every candidate that applies is required to *take* Part III of NBEO and scores submitted as soon as available.
4. At least three (3) letters of recommendation are required, two of which must be from individuals who are familiar with the candidate's clinical skills.
5. Every candidate who applies must also register with the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMS), unless the candidate is applying for an UNFILLED position AFTER the official match date for a given year.
6. Every candidate will be required to demonstrate adequate clinical and didactic knowledge through any of the following means:
 - a. Clinical faculty recommendations
 - b. Demonstrated self-study or research
 - c. Active involvement in student scholarly groups
 - d. Outside employment
 - e. Clinical questions on interview
7. Every candidate *must* be *personally* interviewed by the Director of Residency Programs to be considered for the program. Additional faculty may participate in the interview. Telephone interviews are not granted without extenuating circumstances and are only permissible when travel to the clinical facility is *impossible*.
8. Every candidate will be evaluated and rated by members of the Interview Committee, based upon the interview and the candidates' submitted materials, in the areas of:
 - a. Didactic and clinical knowledge
 - b. Interpersonal skills
 - c. Integrity
 - d. Adaptability
 - e. Motivation
 - f. Maturity
 - g. Patient management skills.
9. Based on ratings of the Interview Committee members, the Director of Residency Programs will select and rank the most qualified applicant(s). The names of those candidates who are found to be acceptable will be submitted to the administrators at the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMS), according to their policies and deadlines. Candidates who match via ORMS will be notified of this decision in a timely fashion via e-mail by ORMS.

GOAL #3: *To provide faculty and administrative support commensurate with the needs of the residency program.*

OBJECTIVES:

1. For each Primary Care Resident, the equivalent of 0.1 FTE (one half day) per week of Faculty support will be allocated for consultation, case discussion and journal club during the Resident Conference Series, as well as for assisting the Resident in the preparation of a scholarly paper for publication.
2. The equivalent of 0.3 FTE (one and one-half days) per week of administrative time will be provided to the Director of Residency Programs; additional time will be made available by the administration on an as-needed basis when the needs of the program are more intensive, e.g. during orientation of new Residents and interviews of Residency Candidates.

3. The equivalent of 0.1 FTE (one half day) per week of administrative time will be provided to the Residency Education Coordinator.
4. Adequate secretarial and administrative support will be made available through the secretarial pool in the administration suite or qualified "work-study" students from outside the College.
5. Designated Faculty (Residency Supervisors) from the Primary Care Service will be available for consultation, case discussion, and clinical assistance with patient care throughout the year.

GOAL #4: *To provide facilities and equipment to adequately serve the needs of the resident(s).*

OBJECTIVES:

1. A room, locker and telephone for all Residents' use will be provided in the clinical patient care area (clinic room 4235).
2. Computers will be provided and available for all Residents' use in the clinical patient care area. In addition, access to the Faculty computer suite will be provided to all Residents, which is located in the administrative suite on the 4th floor of the Terry Bldg.
3. Each Resident will be assigned an NSU ID number and provided internet access and an e-mail account.
4. State of the art clinical equipment will be available for Resident use.
5. The Residents will have access to at least one set of portable diagnostic clinical equipment for primary care examinations. This will be kept in the Resident Office (4235)
6. The on-campus and electronic library will be available to all Residents.

GOAL #5: *To provide a varied clinical patient base, assuring an adequate clinical experience for each resident to achieve advanced competency in primary eye care.*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Each Resident shall demonstrate competence in the evaluation and management of a wide variety of patient encounters by performing comprehensive eye examinations, follow-up examinations, urgent care examinations, observing care rendered by other professionals, and precepting third and fourth year optometry students.
2. Each Resident will participate in after hours "on-call" service, as directed by the Director of Residency Programs.
3. Each Resident will maintain a log of all patient encounters, which shall include patient numbers, level of Resident involvement, case complexity and diagnosis.
4. Residents will have the opportunity to choose an area of emphasis within their primary care training in either cornea and contact lenses, ocular disease, geriatrics and low vision or pediatrics and binocular vision and rotate within that area through one of the NSU Specialty Care Services and/or external observation, allowing them to increase their patient exposure in these services.

GOAL #6: To provide educational opportunities in a multidisciplinary environment to help the resident develop a broad understanding of the health care delivery system

1. Each Resident will rotate through an ophthalmology subspecialty, depending on the Resident's area of interest. These rotations may include one or more of the following; retina, neuro-ophthalmology, general ophthalmology, oculo-plastics, pediatric ophthalmology cornea and anterior segment and/or surgical observation.
2. The Residents may rotate through medical rotations in areas such as Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Neurology/Radiology upon request. Other subspecialties may be added (and/or deleted) based upon an individual Resident's needs, after consultation with and with the approval of the Residency Advisory Board.

GOAL #7: To provide didactic instruction to all residents.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Each Resident shall have the opportunity to audit any courses within the Optometry curriculum, as interest and clinic schedules permit. These courses shall be offered at no charge to the Resident.
2. Each Resident will have the opportunity to participate in the *Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Grand Rounds* on Thursday mornings. All Residents are expected to attend at least once a month based on the schedule provided for the Resident Conference Series.
3. Each Resident is strongly encouraged (and is provided with funding) to attend at least one professional meeting during the year, in order to partake in educational seminars or present research papers or posters. Examples of such meetings include the American Optometric Association Annual Congress (AOA), the American Academy of Optometry Annual Meeting (AAO), the Southern Educational Congress of Optometry (SECO), and/or the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting.
4. All Residents are invited to attend, free of charge, any and all Continuing Education Programs sponsored by the College.
5. All Residents will attend the Thursday morning Resident Conference Series and attend scheduled lectures.

GOAL #8: To develop and enhance the residents' teaching and presentation skills.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Each Resident shall have the opportunity to prepare and deliver at least one formal lecture to optometry Students or fellow Residents.
2. During each clinical session, when time allows, the Resident is encouraged to lead case discussions with the Students, with the input and participation of the Residency Supervisor (Module Director). Feedback on the Resident's effectiveness in case discussion shall be incorporated into the Resident Evaluations performed by the Residency Supervisors.
3. Each Resident may participate in the third year Clinical Module Conference under the direction and supervision of the Module Director, as their schedule allows.
4. Each Resident will participate in the teaching of optometric procedures within the clinical facilities and/or the Optometric Theory and Methods (OTM) laboratories on a limited basis. These encounters may consist of interaction with first, second, or third year optometry Students.

5. Each Resident shall participate in a monthly Journal Club during the Thursday morning Resident Conference Series.

GOAL #9. *To increase the resident's skills in and knowledge about scholarly activity.*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Each Resident shall prepare a manuscript of publishable quality, with feedback and guidance provided by a Residency Supervisor.
2. Each Resident shall participate in monthly Journal Club during the Thursday morning Resident Conference Series.
3. At least four hours per week will be allotted for research and scholarly activity. This time shall be provided during operating hours of the clinics and University library.

GOAL # 10. *To expand and improve the residents' intra- and inter-professional communication abilities and skills.*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Each Resident shall attend at least three (3) local professional society meetings during the residency. When requested, the Resident should be available to present case discussions at these meetings.
2. Each Resident shall actively participate in various formats of discussion while on rotations in ophthalmology/medical subspecialties.
3. Each Resident shall prepare patient referrals to outside practitioners. These referrals will be reviewed by the Residency Supervisor. Documentation will be kept in the patient's electronic medical record and recorded in the Resident patient log.

GOAL #11. *To prepare residency graduates for a possible career in optometric education.*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Resources, in the form of knowledgeable Faculty members or written documentation (e-mail), shall be provided to the Resident regarding job availabilities at Schools and Colleges of Optometry.
2. A majority of the Resident's time shall be devoted to preceptorship of third or fourth year optometry students in a clinical setting, with supervision by the Residency Supervisor.
3. Residents shall be encouraged to become student members in the American Academy of Optometry, with the anticipation that they will go on to become Fellows. Faculty guidance is given to those Residents applying for Fellowship.