

Viera VA Optometry Residency



Primary Care with Emphasis in Ocular Disease

Mission Statement

The Viera VA Optometry Residency Program is a one-year program in primary eye care with an emphasis in ocular disease. The mission of this residency is to attract highly qualified, post-graduate optometrists and provide them with advanced, comprehensive clinical and didactic training in the field of optometry. A fully immersive clinical experience supplemented by an advanced didactic curriculum will prepare residents for optometric practice well beyond entry-level competency. Residents will practice in an interdisciplinary setting that will promote the development of a broad perspective of the role of optometrists in a modern health care system. The program will emphasize broad exposure to the various ocular and systemic diseases that affect vision, including acute and long-term management of such conditions. This program will also foster a life-long commitment to learning as the scope of the profession expands over time. Graduates of this program will be able to deliver the highest standard of clinical care in primary care optometry, serve as educators in the field of optometry, and function as leaders in all possible health care modalities.

Duration

12 months, ~July 1st through June 30th of the following year

Program Description

The Viera Eye Clinic located in the Viera VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) serves as the primary site for the residency program. The resident will occasionally complete external rotations in optometry and ophthalmology sub-specialties at the Lake Nona VA Medical Center and the Lake Baldwin VA Clinic, each of which is located in Orlando and approximately 45-55 minutes from the Viera VA Clinic. All onboarding orientation processes are conducted at the Lake Nona VAMC during the first week of the program.

The curriculum includes a diversified set of components with a goal of providing the resident with a comprehensive, practical knowledge base for the management of ocular and related systemic conditions. The primary focus is on providing direct clinical patient care.

The optometry service at the Viera VA clinic serves as the primary access point for nearly 22,000 enrolled veterans. The resident will dedicate the majority of his/her time to managing a full schedule of patients. The resident will also gain broad exposure to a wide variety of ocular conditions and pathologies by triaging and evaluating urgent/emergent



consults to the eye clinic. The program also features internal rotations through sub-specialty clinics in low vision, specialty contact lenses, and general ophthalmology, coupled with external rotations in traumatic brain injury, cornea, glaucoma, retina, and oculoplastics) which will further enhance the resident's knowledge base. As the resident becomes more proficient in managing complex cases, they will work more independently from their assigned faculty, and in the latter part of their curriculum will eventually serve as preceptors to fourth-year optometry externs.

For didactic training, the resident will participate in regularly scheduled educational meetings with fourth year externs and faculty preceptors. Meetings will include case presentations, slide quizzes, peer-reviewed journal articles, and group discussions. The resident will be required to attend and participate in VISN 8 Grand Rounds meetings (1-2 per year) and Nova Southeastern University's annual Residents Day event. Didactic training will further be enhanced by the requirement to obtain 12 hours of pertinent continuing education credits at a professional optometry conference. Additionally, the resident will prepare a publishable-quality paper or poster presentation suitable for submission to a scientific journal or a professional optometry conference.

Work Schedule

The resident will work Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm (40 hours per week). There are no clinical responsibilities on weekends, after hours, or on federal holidays.

Professional Liability Coverage

Professional liability protection is provided under the Federal Tort Claims Act for all residents working in their assigned capacity within a designated VA facility. Residents are *not* required to purchase separate malpractice insurance.

Compensation and Benefits

The salary and benefits package for optometry residents is established at the national level by the Veterans Health Administration and is competitive with other residency programs. Base pay is set at \$45,046 and is paid on a bi-weekly basis. Additionally, residents will have the opportunity to acquire partially subsidized health, dental, and life insurance while employed. Residents accrue four hours each of annual and sick leave per pay period. Authorized absence is available for attending one major educational conference during the academic year and for attending state board exams. Paid leave is also included for all federal holidays.

Non-Discrimination Policy

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Older Americans Amendments of 1975, no candidate will be discriminated against based upon race, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or non-disqualifying physical impairment.

Location

Viera is an affluent, master-planned community located in the Atlantic Coastal region of Central Florida, otherwise known as Florida's Space Coast. Local amenities include Orlando area theme parks (1 hour to Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, Islands of Adventure, etc), the Kennedy Space Center (30 minutes), Atlantic beaches (20 minutes), the Brevard Zoo (10 minutes), and shopping at The Avenue Town Center (5 minutes). Viera is also within driving distance to all of Florida's metropolitan areas, including Orlando (45 minutes), Tampa, (2 hours), Jacksonville (2.5 hours), and Miami (3 hours).



Application Criteria

The following criteria are required to apply for the resident program:

1. Applicants must have obtained an O.D. degree from an ACOE-accredited institution (or be in the final year of training for an O.D. degree). Per the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), applicants must have attained the Doctor of Optometry degree from a school or college of optometry with and accreditation status prior to matriculation into a residency program.
2. Applicants must have passed Part I of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) exam at the time of application to be scheduled for an interview. Additionally, applicants must pass both NBEO Part II, TMOD, and Part III and be eligible for licensure by the start of the residency program.
3. Applicants are required to complete an interview (either in person or via video conference) with the program coordinator
4. Applicants must be U.S. citizens (required by law) to be considered for a funded position.

Requirements for Program Completion

1. Attendance at all scheduled clinics, lectures, and/or seminars
2. Completion of 12 hours of continuing education credits at an organized optometry event (AAO, AOA, SECO, CFSOP, POA, Nova Southeastern Univ., etc)
3. Completion and submission of the following by the assigned due date:
 - a. all clinical, didactic, and scholarship assignments
 - b. a publishable quality manuscript or academic poster
 - c. Two formal presentations
 - d. all pertinent activity logs
 - e. all required evaluations
4. Receipt of overall satisfactory evaluation from all core faculty members
5. Completion of all VA checkout procedures

Contact for More Information

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