

Lake City VA Residency Program

Primary Care with emphasis in Low Vision

619 S. Marion Ave
Lake City, Florida 32025

Program Application Deadline: January 31st
Date Program Established: 05/26/2004
Accreditation Status: Accredited

Program Mission Statement:

The Lake City Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lake City, Florida, in conjunction with the Gainesville VA, University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology and Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, offers a one-year residency program in primary eye care/low vision. The mission of the program is to provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an advanced educational experience that will enhance their clinical skills in primary care, low vision rehabilitation, and ocular disease. Individuals completing the program will be able to deliver an advanced level of optometric care in a clinical setting, participate in co-management and multidisciplinary practice and/or serve as clinical instructors at optometry schools.

Program Description:

The Lake City program is designed to maximize the resident exposure to a diverse patient base. The resident will see a variety of new and existing patients, emergency referrals from the emergency department, hospital ward and nursing home in-patients at the Lake City VA. The residents primarily serve primary care patients as well as visually impaired patients in the VICTORS (Visual Impairment Center To Optimize Remaining Sight) and Low vision programs. The residents will rotate through various ophthalmology clinics under attendings with an array of expertise including General ophthalmology, Neuro-ophthalmology, Glaucoma/Uveitis clinics at the Gainesville VA Bedtower, and will also rotate through a Retina clinic at a local private practice. Residents will also participate in grand rounds and journal club meetings, attend faculty lectures and will be encouraged to attend a professional conference.

To ensure the goals of the program are met, the resident will be responsible for maintaining a monthly log detailing the number of patients seen in each clinic, their clinical diagnosis, and the resident's involvement in each encounter. The ultimate goal is to enhance the resident's ability to independently assess, treat and manage primary care patients in a clinical setting.

Program Length: Twelve months
Number of Positions Available in Program: 2
Program Start Date: July 1st

Typical Weekly Hours and After-Hours Responsibilities:

The resident will be required to work 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, excluding federal holidays, authorized absence, annual and sick leave. The tour of duty is 7:30-4:00 Mon-Fri at the Lake City VAMC, 8:00-4:30 at the ophthalmology clinic at the Gainesville VAMC/Bedtower. Residents are expected to stay until all patients have been examined. There are no on-call after hour responsibilities. Weekly Grand Round lectures are held on Friday mornings at 8am at the University of Florida's Ophthalmology department. The residency Program Coordinator is available to meet with the resident for periodic evaluations and to discuss clinical cases, ongoing projects and to address any other resident concerns.

Requirements for Completion:

1. Arrive on time and attend for all scheduled clinics, lectures and/or seminars
2. Participation and completion of all assigned clinical duties
3. Satisfactory preparation and delivery of all scholarly assignment
4. Prepare a manuscript of publishable quality
5. Performance of all additional duties as assigned by the Program Coordinator
6. Receive overall satisfactory evaluation from all faculty members.

Program Salary/Stipend: \$48,473.00

Program Benefits and Liability Coverage:

Health Coverage, Professional Liability insurance,
Vacation and Paid Sick Leave

Program Coordinator: Nirmani Karunathilake, O.D., M.D.

Affiliation: Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry

Director of Residency Education: Mariem A. Abdou, O.D., M.S., FAAO

Please send application materials to:

Nirmani Karunathilake, O.D.
Residency Program Coordinator
619 S. Marion Ave
Lake City, Florida 32025

Email: Nirmani.karunathilake@va.gov

Telephone: 813-464-4596

Fax: (352) 384-8109

Selection Procedure and Admission Criteria:

Candidates must register with the Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMatch) by January 31st to be considered. Candidates will provide through ORMatch the following information:

1. Name, Address, phone number and email address
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Official transcripts of NBEO scores
4. Official transcripts of optometric education
5. Minimum of three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the academic and/or clinical abilities of the applicant
6. Brief statement/letter of intent from the applicant regarding his/her desire to complete the residency program at the Lake City VAMC.

Interviews will be requested of specific candidates based upon the quality of their credentials and application information. Face to face interviews are preferred. The qualified applicants are interviewed by an interview team which consists of the Program Coordinator and at least one additional faculty member using a standardized list of questions. The interview team will rank applicants in order of merit based on the applicant's qualifications as well as personal and professional characteristics. The list will be submitted to ORMatch. at the same time, candidates will submit an independent list of their preferred programs. ORMatch will notify both the candidates and programs of the match results.

Applicants must have received a license of optometry (OD) from a College of Optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometry Education (ACOE) prior to matriculation. Applicants who have not passed a part of the NBEO may still be considered depending on the strength of their other application materials, but typically will be at a disadvantage compared to applicants who have passed. The program maintains the right to defer ranking individuals who have not passed board exams.

In the event that a match does not occur, the Program Coordinator will pursue interested applicants from the remaining unmatched pool or any other qualified candidate.

United States citizenship is required to qualify for VHA appointment in a paid VA optometry resident position funded by the Office of Academic Affiliations. Reference: VA Handbook 5005/57, Part II, Chapter 3, Paragraph 3.g.(1) & (5)(c), dated June 14, 2012.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT Candidates will be considered regardless of race, color, sex, age, non-disqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin.