

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Title: Residency in Primary Eye Care

Program Type: Primary Eye Care

Program Area of Emphasis:

Program Site: Malcom Randall VA Medical Center

Program Location

City: Gainesville

State: Florida

Affiliation: Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry

Program Application Deadline: January 31st

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Date Program Established: 2001

Accreditation Status: Accredited

Program Mission Statement:

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.

Program Description:

The resident will be required to participate in a structured educational program whose emphasis is on direct patient care. The resident will have the opportunity to attend faculty lectures, grand rounds, journal clubs, and visiting professor lectures. Residents will maintain a log of all lectures attended.

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 fields of expertise. This will include rotating through cornea, neuro-ophthalmology, retina/uveitis, and cornea clinics throughout the year. 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 goal is to enhance the residents' 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.

Program Length: Twelve months

Number of Positions Available in Program: 3

Program Starting Date: First weekday in July

Typical Weekly Hours and After-Hours Responsibilities:

Residents perform clinical duties Monday through Friday at either the VA Ophthalmology Clinic or the off-site Optometry Clinic. Clinic duties start at 7:30 am and finish around 4:00 pm at the Optometry Clinic and begin at 8:00 am and finish around 4:30 pm at the VA Ophthalmology Clinic. Residents are expected to stay until all patients have been examined. Residents rotate through the various specialty clinics throughout the year including Contact Lens Clinic (1/3 of the year) and Low Vision Clinic (1/3 of the year). Residents are assigned to rotate through the various Ophthalmology clinics throughout the year. Residents also see patients presenting for consultative exams, return visits, visual fields, and urgent problems in both clinics throughout each week.

Lectures are scheduled throughout the year at the University of Florida Ophthalmology Department at 7:15 a.m. Grand Rounds are Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Residents will meet with the Residency Coordinator on Fridays to discuss/review clinical topics, ongoing projects, periodic evaluations, or any other residency program issues.

Requirements for Completion:

1. Timely attendance at all scheduled clinics, lectures, and seminars
2. Participation and completion of all assigned clinical duties
3. Satisfactory preparation and delivery of all scholarly assignments
4. Preparation of a manuscript of publishable quality
5. Performance of all additional duties as assigned by the Program Coordinator
6. Receipt of satisfactory evaluations from all faculty members.

Program Salary/Stipend: \$34,888.00

Program Benefits and Liability Coverage:

- Health Coverage
- Professional Liability Insurance (Federal Tort Claims Act)
- Vacation
- Paid Sick Leave
- Up to five days to attend various academic events

Completion Certificate: Yes

VA Hospital Affiliation: Yes

Program URL: http://optometry.nova.edu/residency/external/forms/malcom_randall_vamc.pdf

KEY CONTACTS

Program Coordinator: Susannah Marcus, O.D., FAAO susannah.marcus@va.gov

Director of Residency Education: Lori Vollmer, O.D., M.S. FAAO lvollmer@nova.edu

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Susannah Marcus, OD, FAAO
Optometry Residency Coordinator
5533 SW 64th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32608

352-271-5967 (clinic)
352-271-5967 (fax)

Admission Criteria and Selection Procedure:

To be eligible, candidates must possess an OD degree from an ACOE-accredited institution or be in their final year of training at such an institution. Candidates must, by law, be US citizens. Candidates must be eligible for licensure in the State of Florida or another state of their choice. Once matched, residents are required to obtain licensure as close to the July 1st start date as possible. Candidates are required to keep an up to date Basic Life Support certification. After successfully matching with our program, the Mandatory Training for Trainees (MTT) course must be completed prior to the start of the residency on July 1st. Residency applicants will be evaluated and chosen without regard to sex, race, religion, age, national origin or handicap.

Candidates must register with the Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMatch) utilized by submitting a completed application. Applications to ORMatch must be completed by January 31st for consideration. The following must be received by the program coordinator for consideration as a residency applicant:

1. ORMatch application with 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
6. Brief statement from the applicant regarding his/her desire to complete the residency program.

Interviews will be requested of specific candidates based upon the quality of the credentials and application information. The qualified applicants are interviewed by an interview team, which consists of optometric faculty of the Malcom Randall VAMC, using a standardized list of questions. The Program Coordinator and interview team will rank applicants in order of merit based on the applicant's qualifications as well as personal and professional characteristics. The Program Coordinator will seek input from other faculty members and staff of the VA Eye Clinic. The list will be submitted to the matching service. 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. In the event 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.

Program Application Deadline: January 31st

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.