

Lake City VA Residency Program

Primary Care with emphasis in Low Vision

Mission of the Residency Program

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 in primary 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 or teaching institutions.

Goal 1 To attract a large, diversified, and well-qualified pool of applicants.

Objectives:

1. To have program information available to each School and College of Optometry through residency information websites.
2. To advertise the program in a national optometric publication that is readily available to qualified optometry students.
3. To personally contact all interested applicants and provide them with detailed information on the program and its application requirements.

Outcome: A large pool of qualified candidates will contact the Program Coordinator for information on the residency program. The program will be advertised on the NSU website, the ASCOE residency directory, and the ORMatch website.

Measure: Interactions with applicants will be documented.

Goal 2 To strengthen the resident's primary care management skills.

Objectives:

1. To insure the resident examines a minimum number of 1500 patients during the one-year program.
2. To provide the resident with a broad range of clinical disease encounters to include retina, glaucoma, oculo-plastics, neuro-ophthalmologic and external disease abnormalities.
3. To provide the resident with the opportunity to perform and/or observe a significant number of primary care procedures including, but not limited to, foreign body removal, corneal cultures/scrapings, punctal occlusion, and epilation.

Outcome: The resident will encounter and manage a minimum of 1500 with diverse ocular conditions.

Measure: Data will be extracted from the VA's computerized record system on a monthly basis. The number of patients seen and their clinical diagnosis will be monitored periodically with formal quarterly evaluations. The resident logs include the level of involvement which includes direct care, observation, and/or precepting students, and any ancillary testing that the resident did with the patient, as well as any additional referrals that were necessary.

Goal 3 To provide an extensive post-graduate level didactic and seminar program on topics related to both optometry and ophthalmology.

Objectives:

1. The resident will attend lectures by faculty from the University of Florida's Department of Ophthalmology/Shands Hospital weekly.
2. The Lake City resident may elect to attend the clinical Grand Rounds with optometry and ophthalmology faculty, fellows, residents and students.
3. The resident will attend visiting professor lectures sponsored by the University of Florida's Department of Ophthalmology.
4. The resident will participate in Journal Club meetings on a regular basis.
5. The Lake City resident will attend 4-hour rotations in the different specialty clinics and services offered at the Lake City/Malcom Randall (Gainesville) VA throughout the year.

Outcome: The resident will attend a wide variety of educational experiences in both an optometric and ophthalmologic setting.

Measure: A log will be established to document each lecture or meeting the resident attends. Program requirements for the Lake City resident include a minimum of:

- 45 hours of lectures: at UF, VA, community, clinic and/or lectures via satellite
- 12 hours of visiting professor lectures
- 10 hours of journal club meetings
- 24 hours of clinic specialty/service rotations

Goal 4 To enhance the resident's knowledge of advanced eye care procedures, low vision examinations, and the care of post-op surgical patients.

Objectives:

1. The resident will have the opportunity to observe ocular surgical cases and participate in the post-op care of these patients.
2. The resident will develop a working knowledge of ocular photography, ultrasound, OCT, Topography, Visual Field.

3. The resident will have exposure to the post-op care of patients status post skin/lid lesion removal, pan retinal photocoagulation, selective laser trabeculoplasty, YAG capsulotomy, and blepharoplasty.
4. The resident will be involved in the Visual Impairment Center to Optimize Remaining Sight (VICTORS) program which includes advanced low vision assessment and management of visually impaired patients. This includes interactions with a team of optometrists, social workers, occupational therapists, the Visual Impairment Service Team (VIST) Coordinator, and Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Services (BROS).

Outcome: The resident will observe the most advanced tertiary care procedures conducted by specialists in their respective fields.

Measure: The resident will document the number and types of procedures observed in the resident's patient logbook. Requirements include:

- Observing ocular surgeries
- Observing 6-8 outpatient procedures
- Performing 30 low vision exams

Goal 5 To engage the resident in scholarly activities.

Objectives:

1. The resident will become familiar with the process involved in writing a paper of such quality that it can be submitted for publication to a recognized professional journal.
2. The resident will have the opportunity to attend presentations on research conducted by staff and residents of the University of Florida Ophthalmology program.

Outcomes: Residents will develop a greater understanding of the literature review process, which will enable them to conduct independent studies on their own. The resident will have the opportunity to attend the Ophthalmology Resident's Day lecture series at UF where ophthalmology residents discuss and present their current research.

Measure: The resident will prepare and submit a manuscript of publishable quality to the program director.

Goal 6 To enhance the communication, teaching, and supervisory skills of the resident.

Objectives:

1. The resident will assist in the supervision and teaching of optometry students and technicians in clinic and give lectures/presentations.
2. The Lake City resident will interact on a daily basis with the faculty and staff of the Lake City VA and weekly with the faculty and staff of both the

University of Florida School of Medicine and the Malcom Randall (Gainesville) VA.

3. The resident will learn how to initiate consultations to other providers, provide written and verbal communication concerning the patient's ocular and medical status, and coordinate follow-up of consultative services both within and external to the VA system.

Outcome: The resident will develop confidence in both teaching and communication skills.

Measure: The Program Coordinator will counsel and assist the resident at least three times during the academic year on these attributes. The Program Coordinator will maintain a written record of these consultations

CURRICULUM

The resident will be required to participate in a structured educational program whose emphasis is on direct patient care.

Patient care

The Lake City program is designed with an emphasis on exposing the resident to a wide variety of patient encounters. To achieve this, the resident will participate with specialists in their chosen fields of expertise. This will include rotating through retina and low vision clinics throughout the year. The resident will manage numerous patients with glaucoma. The Lake City resident will observe surgery at the Lake City and Gainesville VAs. The resident will be involved in pre- and post-operative care of patients mainly from the Lake City VA cases and on a limited basis from the GVAMC and other outlying clinics. The resident will be scheduled approximately 10-14 patients per regular clinic day and will have the opportunity to supervise extern patient examinations. The patients seen by the resident will be a mixture of existing patients, new patients and emergency referrals from the emergency department, hospital wards and nursing home, as well as low vision patients. The goal is to enhance the resident's ability to independently assess and treat primary care patients in a clinical setting.

To insure the goals of the program are met, an electronic log will be maintained listing the number of patients seen, their clinical diagnosis, the level of complexity and the level of the resident's involvement. This log will be turned in monthly.

Didactic Education

As mentioned in the goals section, the resident is required to participate in a structured educational program with an emphasis on direct patient care. The resident will attend faculty lectures, grand rounds, clinical presentations, visiting professor lectures at the University of Florida (Pearls for Practice Conference Series) and journal club meetings.

The resident will also participate in a minimum of 24 hours of clinic specialty/service rotations at the Lake City and/or Gainesville VA. The resident may elect to record and

review any nationwide VA lecture from a schedule distributed weekly. The resident will receive at least 25 hours of category 1 education credits within the residency. The resident will also participate in a weekly VICTORS team meeting in which low vision and rehabilitation plans will be discussed. Attendance is required to insure compliance with the education requirements of the program.

Scholarly Activities

The resident will be required to research and create power point presentations on approved topics to be presented at the VA Optometry Residents Grand Rounds programs and any other assigned venues such as NOVA "Residency Weekend" program and "Gator Vision." The resident will be encouraged to present varying topics for presentations, etc. to include low vision. The resident may also be asked to speak at Low Vision support group meetings or at the Substance Abuse Treatment Team and the "Healthy Living" seminars during the residency year. In addition, the resident will be required to produce a manuscript of publishable quality pertaining to a case report or other research topic. Submission of the manuscript to a refereed journal prior to completion of the training program will be encouraged. The resident will be required to present a clinic poster for the GRECC Poster Day and will also be encouraged to submit a poster abstract to a major optometry meeting. Residents will be asked to lead at least one journal club during the residency year. The resident will be expected to utilize time outside of his/her clinical duties to complete all scholarly assignments. The North Central Florida Association of Optometry hosts monthly dinners for continuing education. The resident is expected to attend these meetings to enhance scholarly activity and create a networking opportunity for positions upon completion of the residency.

Weekly Schedule:

Resident Rotation: Residents will rotate on 1 month intervals between the Resident 1 and 2 schedules

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Resident 1	7:30-8:00 Journal Club (every 4 th Monday of the month, leads journal club for externs) 8:00 AM-12PM LKC Optometry Prim. Care Resident Clinic	7:30-12 LKC Optometry Prim. Care Resident Clinic	7:30-4 Low Vision	All Day. GNV Bed Tower (Cornea/Glaucoma)	7:30-10:00 Education/ UF Grand Rounds, GRECC Every 4 th Friday. 10:00-12:00 LKC Optometry Prim. Care Resident Clinic

	1:00-4:00 Inpatients OR (medical specialty observations, on these days, patients will be absorbed by clinic)	1:00-4:00 Florida Retina Institute OR (medical specialty observations, on these days, patients will be absorbed by clinic)		OR (meducal specialty observations, on these days, patients will be absorbed by clinic)	1:00-4:00 Inpatients OR (medical specialty observations, on these days, patients will be absorbed by clinic)
Resident 2	7:30-8:00 Journal Club (every 4 th Monday of the month, leads journal club for externs) 8-4 Clinic Overflow& Urgent Overbooks/ ER/ Triage and Same Day Inquiries	7:30-4 Clinic Overflow& Urgent Overbooks/ ER/ Triage and Same Day Inquiries	7:30-4 Clinic Overflow& Urgent Overbooks/ ER/ Triage and Same Day Inquiries	7:30-4 Clinic Overflow& Urgent Overbooks/ ER/ Triage and Same Day Inquiries	7:30-4 Clinic Overflow& Urgent Overbooks/ ER/ Triage and Same Day Inquiries

PROGRAM SPONSOR AND AFFILIATES

Sponsor: Lake City Veterans Administration Medical Center. Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Academic Affiliate: Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry. Accredited by the Council on Optometric Education, American Optometric Association.

Clinical Affiliate: Malcom Randall (Gainesville) Veterans Administration Medical Center. Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. The University of Florida School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology. Accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Education. Florida Retina Institute.

RESIDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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

1. Candidates must possess an O.D. degree from a COE-accredited institution or be in their final year of training at such an institution.
2. Candidates must have passed Part I of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examination and either have passed part II or be scheduled to sit for Part II of the examination at the time of application.
3. Candidates should have a grade point average greater than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
4. By law, candidates must be citizens of the United States.
5. Candidates must be eligible for licensure as an optometrist in the State of Florida and must obtain licensure in Florida or another state of their choice.

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.

Admission Process

Candidates must apply to the program through the Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMS) utilized by all VA optometry residency programs. Applications to ORMS must be completed by February 1st for consideration. The following must be received by the program director for consideration as a residency applicant:

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 from the applicant regarding his/her desire to complete this residency program.

Interviews will be requested of specific candidates based upon the quality of the credentials and application information.

All serious applicants will be directly informed that, if selected, their credentials will be verified as required by local VA Medical Center policy. Residents are not granted medical staff membership status but may practice independently under an expanding scope of practice after state licensure is granted and competency is demonstrated.

The Residency Program Coordinator will rank applicants in order of merit based on the applicant's qualifications as well as personal and professional characteristics. The Coordinator will seek input from other faculty members of the VA Optometry Service and may seek input from the Residency Director from Nova Southeastern in developing this ranking. The list will be submitted to the matching service. At the same time, candidates will submit an independent list of their preferred programs. ORMS will notify both the candidates and programs of the match results. In the event a match does not occur for the Lake City program, the Program Coordinator will pursue interested applicants from the remaining unmatched pool or any other qualified candidate.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The optometry resident position is a one-year, full-time salaried position whose start date will be July 1 and end date June 30 the following year. The resident will be required to work 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, excluding federal holidays, authorized absence, annual and sick leave. There are no after hour responsibilities. The resident's primary duty will be to provide comprehensive optometry care to patients of the Lake City VA Eye Clinic. The level of care that is provided by the resident is dependent upon the scope of practice authorized by the resident's state license and the level of clinical competence exhibited by the resident. Additional duties include providing optometry service at the Gainesville VA and Shands/UF, supervising and instructing optometry externs, and attending a variety of educational lectures, both at the VA and the University of Florida and writing a paper of publishable quality.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

The salary and benefit structure for the resident is established by the Veterans Health Administration and is competitive with other residency programs. The salary is \$31,965. The resident may acquire partially subsidized health, dental, and life insurance at the VA. Specific information about these benefits will be provided by Human Resources at the Gainesville VAMC on the first day of employment. Residents earn four hours each of annual and sick leave earned each pay period (every 2 weeks). The VA provides 10 paid holidays. Administrative time is allowed for the resident to attend at least one educational meeting outside the normal educational opportunities offered by the program as well as authorized absence for state boards.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

The VA does not require liability insurance. Liability Protection under the Federal Tort Claims act is provided to all residents for professional duties performed within the VA as long as the residents are acting within the scope of their assignments. This means that any resident in an established assignment has the same protection and rights as a VA

employee. Residents are also covered for external rotations under the Federal Employees Liability and Tort Compensation Act, but this does not apply to moonlighting.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION

In order to satisfactorily complete the residency in primary care/low vision, each resident must achieve of the following:

1. Arrive on time for all scheduled clinics, lectures and/or seminars
2. Prepare and deliver on time all scheduled assignments
3. Attend and actively participate during journal reviews
4. Receive a satisfactory evaluation from all residency supervisors
5. Prepare a manuscript of publishable quality by deadlines given
6. Satisfactorily perform additional duties assigned by the Residency Coordinator.

At the successful conclusion of the residency, each resident will receive a certificate of completion, signed by the Residency Program Coordinator, the Director of Residency Programs, and the Dean of the College and a certificate of completion, signed by the Residency Program Coordinator and the Director of Low Vision Services.