

BASIC 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 attend faculty lectures, grand rounds, journal club, and visiting professor lectures. Residents will maintain a log of all lectures attended.

Patient Care

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 particular fields of expertise. This will include rotating through retina 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 ultimate 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 week of July

Typical Weekly Hours and After-Hours Responsibilities:

Residents perform clinical duties Monday through Friday at either the VA hospital 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 hospital 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), Low Vision Clinic (1/3 of the year), Cornea Clinic (2/3 of the year), and Retina Clinic (1/3+ of the year). Residents also see patients presenting for consultative exams, return visits, visual fields, and urgent problems in both clinics throughout each week. Optometry residents are responsible for seeing up to four urgent consults during the day.

Lectures are scheduled two to three times per week 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 or other program faculty on Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:30 a.m. twice a month to discuss clinical topics, ongoing projects, periodic evaluations, or any other residency program issues.

Requirements for Completion:

1. Attend all scheduled clinics, lectures and/or seminars
2. Prepare and deliver all clinical, didactic, and scholarship assignments
3. Attend and actively participate during journal reviews
4. Receive overall satisfactory evaluation from all residency supervisors
5. Prepare a manuscript of publishable quality
6. Turn in all clinical, didactic, and scholarship logs when requested

Program Salary/Stipend: \$31,965.00

Program Benefits and Liability Coverage:

- Health Coverage
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Vacation
- Paid Sick Leave

Completion Certificate: Yes

VA Hospital Affiliation: Yes

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

KEY CONTACTS

Program Coordinator, Coordinator Title: Susannah Marcus, O.D., FAAO

Program Address:

5533 SW 64th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32608

Telephone: 352-262-4360

E-mail Address: susannah.marcus@va.gov

Director of Residency Education: Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application Materials and Procedures:

Susannah Marcus, OD, FAAO
Optometry Residency Coordinator
Email: susannah.marcus@va.gov
Phone: (352) 374-1611 x 4908

Selection Procedure and Admission Criteria:

Candidates must register with the Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMS) utilized by submitting a completed application. 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 particular 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 Lake City VAMC and the Visually Impaired Service Team Coordinator, 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 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 that match does not, 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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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. gg