

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic Optometry Residency Program in Primary Care

Mission of the Residency Program

The Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida in conjunction with Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry offers a one-year residency 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 both 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/or serve as clinical instructors at optometry schools.

Program Description

This residency program is designed to provide qualified residents with a significant number of diverse patient encounters. The resident will work a forty-hour work week where the majority of the time will be devoted to direct patient care in the primary care eye clinic. The resident will have the opportunity to manage a significant number of ocular disease cases, including glaucoma, retinal pathologies, cataract management, and neuro-ophthalmic cases. The resident will also rotate through weekly contact lens and low vision clinics. The resident will participate in journal club meetings with the staff and optometry students and will be given the opportunity to attend a professional conference.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1

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

Objectives:

1. To advertise the program in a national optometric publication that is readily available to qualified optometry students. Additional opportunities, including the Nova Open House, will be utilized when possible. The program description as available on the Nova, ASCO, and ORMatch websites will be maintained.
2. To personally contact all interested applicants and provide them with detailed information on the program and its application requirements.

Goal 2

To strengthen the resident's primary care management skills.

Objectives:

1. To ensure the resident examines an adequate number of 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 oculoplastics abnormalities.
3. To provide the resident with the opportunity to perform a significant number of primary care procedures including punctal occlusion, foreign body removal, and dilation and irrigation.
4. The resident will have the ability to order laboratory testing, diagnostic imaging and specialty consultations. In addition, the resident will have the opportunity to see patients referred to us on an emergency basis and on a regular basis from other healthcare specialists within the hospital.
5. The resident will have the opportunity to perform gonioscopy, automated perimetry, scleral depression, ocular photography, ocular coherence tomography and other diagnostic instrumentation throughout the year.

Goal 3

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

Objectives:

1. The resident will have the option to attend primary care lectures by faculty from the various Veterans Affairs clinical departments.
2. The resident will participate in occasional Journal Club, slide review, and/or other various Optometry Department didactic activities throughout the year.
3. The residents will attend multidisciplinary grand rounds meetings as time allows throughout the year.
4. The resident will be afforded the opportunity to attend major education meetings during the year (SECO, AOA, AAO, or FOA).

Goal 4

To enhance the resident's knowledge of advanced eye care procedures, low vision examinations, and contact lens examinations.

Objectives:

1. The resident will have the potential opportunity to observe ocular surgical cases, based on the specific needs of the resident.
2. The resident will develop a working knowledge of ocular photography, OCT, B-scan ultrasound, corneal topography, and HVF.
3. The resident will have the potential opportunity to observe a variety of outpatient procedures to include skin lesion removal, PRP, ALT, YAG capsulotomy, and blepharoplasty.

4. The resident will be instructed in the low vision examination of visually impaired patients and participate in their evaluation.
5. The resident will be instructed in the contact lens examination of medically indicated contact lens patients.

Goal 5

To enhance the resident's knowledge of clinical research.

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 is provided access to NSU's online medical library by using their NSU ID number, on-line Scientific Direct via JOPC computers, and the Gainesville VAMC science library.

Goal 6

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

Objectives:

1. The resident will assist in the supervising and teaching of optometry students.
2. The resident will interact on a daily basis with faculty, staff, and trainees of the Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic.
3. The resident will learn how to initiate consultations, provide communication concerning the patient's ocular and medical status, and coordinate follow up of consultative services both within and external to the VA system.

Goal 7

To impartially evaluate and provide feedback to the resident based on these goals.

Objectives:

1. The resident will be evaluated by each clinical preceptor three times per year.
2. All lectures, presentations, and grand rounds will be formerly evaluated by one of the Jacksonville VA Eye Clinic preceptors or other VA staff preceptors from the local area
3. Patients will periodically evaluate the program through the use of patient satisfaction surveys.

Goal 8

To impartially evaluate and receive feedback on the overall quality and effectiveness of the residency program.

Objectives:

1. Each resident will evaluate the residency program at midpoint and at the conclusion of the residency.
2. The resident shall formally evaluate the Preceptors, including the Program Coordinator at the conclusion of the program.

3. All preceptors, including the Program Coordinator, will meet quarterly to discuss short and long term planning of the residency.

Compensation and Benefits

Resident's compensation is determined by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations. For 2020-2021, the salary is \$34,949. The salary is not contingent upon productivity. Paid sick leave, holidays, and vacation are also included. The resident has the opportunity to acquire partially subsidized health and dental insurance through the federal government. Specific information about these benefits will be provided in the new employee orientation at the Gainesville VAMC during the orientation process.

Liability under the Federal Tort Claims act is provided to all residents for professional duties performed with the VA. Residents are also covered for external rotations under the Federal Employees Liability and Tort Compensation Act but this does not apply to moonlighting.

Curriculum

1. DIDACTIC EDUCATION

- a. Attend weekly Thursday afternoon optometry staff lectures/journal club.
- b. Attend at least one of the major educational meetings (ie. AAO, AOA Congress, SECO).
- c. Review and continually update a collection of clinically relevant journal articles / continuing education handouts (given throughout the residency).

2. CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

- a. Provide eye care for patients with a wide variety of systemic and ocular diseases including: diabetes, hypertension, vascular disease, glaucoma, cataracts, anterior segment diseases, refractive surgery, age related macular degeneration, and neuro-ophthalmic disease.
- b. Perform diagnostic testing including: automated perimetry, OCT, corneal pachymetry, B scan ultrasonography, photography, etc.
- c. Enter patient records into Computerized Patient Record System.
- d. Review and triage consults from other members of the professional staff.
- e. Order and review laboratory, radiographic and vascular imaging studies.
- f. Coordinate patient care with primary care providers and specialists.
 - i. Opportunity will be given to participate in either observation or direct patient care at external clinic sites: to-be-determined.

3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- a. Give 2-3 grand rounds lectures to the staff and students.
- b. Participate in formal Grand Rounds presentations: Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry's Residents Weekend event and other sites to be announced. Dates to be announced.
- c. Work with a member of the Optometry staff to prepare a poster for one of the major educational meetings (ie. AAO, AOA, SECO).
- d. Prepare an article of publishable quality for a peer-reviewed journal.
- e. Supervise optometry students during last quarter of the year or when approved by Program Coordinator.

Tentative Weekly Schedule

Monday

7:00am–5:00pm Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA
5:00pm – 5:30pm Administrative Time

Tuesday

Off Day

Wednesday

7:00am–10:00am Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA
10:00am – 5:00pm Low Vision Clinic Jacksonville VA
5:00pm – 5:30pm Administrative Time

Thursday

7:00am–12:00pm Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA
1:00pm – 2:00pm Journal Club / Staff Lectures Jacksonville VA
2:00am–5:00pm Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA
5:00pm – 5:30pm Administrative Time

Friday

7:00am–2:30pm Contact Lens Clinic Jacksonville VA
2:30pm – 5:00pm Primary Care Eye Clinic Jacksonville VA
5:00pm – 5:30pm Administrative Time

Program Sponsor and Affiliate

Sponsor: Jacksonville Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic

Academic Affiliate: Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

Clinical Affiliates: Malcom Randall VA Medical Center, Gainesville, Florida (pending)

Resident Eligibility Criteria.

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

1. Candidates must possess an OD degree from an ACOE-accredited institution or be in their final year of training at such an institution prior to matriculation.
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.

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.

Requirements for Completion

Satisfactory completion of the residency requires all of the following to be met:

- Arrive on time for and attend all scheduled clinics, lectures, and seminars
- Participation and completion of all assigned clinical duties
- Satisfactory preparation and delivery of all scholarly assignments
- Preparation of a manuscript of publishable quality
- Performance of all additional duties as assigned by the Residency Coordinator
- Receipt of satisfactory evaluations from all faculty members

At the successful completion 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.