Everything You Need to Know about Optometric Residencies

Provided by:
Residency Affairs Committee
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Optometric Residencies
ACOE Accreditation

- Accreditation is a system for recognizing that an educational program has attained a level of educational effectiveness, integrity, and quality which entitles it to the confidence of the educational community and public they serve.

- ACOE is the accreditation body for optometric residencies.
Accreditation Council of Optometric Education (ACOE) definition:

“a planned program of post-optometric clinical education that is designed to advance significantly the optometric graduate’s preparation as a provider of patient care services beyond entry level practice”
Optometric Residency Programs

- Affiliated with an ACOE Accredited School or College of Optometry
- 12 month duration minimum; July 1 to June 30 (some residencies are 13 months)
- Composed of appropriately supervised clinical eye/vision care (supervision is tapered throughout year)
- Includes a well-designed mix of self-directed learning, seminar participation, instructional experiences, and scholarship
Residency Program Compensation

- **Salary/Stipend**
  - Varies among residencies
  - VAMC varies from $31,965 to $37,842 depending on location plus benefits (5/12)

- **Student Loan Deferment**

- **Typical 40 hours scheduled per week**
  - Extra time required for professional activities

- **ER call possible**
  - In addition to regular workweek
Residency Program Compensation

- Vacation/Holidays/Personal Days
- Benefits (healthcare, disability, life insurance)
- Professional Leave
  - Continuing education
  - Discounted CE registration

Each residency has unique compensation packages. Ask during your application process!
11 Optometric Residency Types

- Family Practice Optometry
- Primary Eye Care
- Cornea and Contact Lenses
- Geriatric Optometry
- Pediatric Optometry
- Low Vision Rehabilitation
- Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation
- Ocular Disease
- Refractive and Ocular Surgery
- Community Health Optometry
- Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation
Optometric Fellowships

- An educational program that cannot be classified as a one-year residency
  - It may be a two-year program that combines a residency with a degree (MS or PhD)
  - It may be an advanced program entered into only after a residency has been completed

- ACOE does not accredit fellowships
Why Pursue a Residency?

- Increase the scope/depth of your knowledge in areas you choose
- Vastly increase your clinical experience and self-confidence
- Enhance your skills at optometric procedures
- Become the independent practitioner you would like to be and still have the assistance and opinions of others whenever you wish
- Initiate demonstration of Continued Competence
- Verify and demonstrate Advanced Clinical Competence
Why Pursue a Residency?

- Form relationships within YOUR profession
  - Faculty/Mentors
  - Other Residents
  - Optometry Students
  - Optometric “movers and shakers”
    - Optometric Legislative Representatives
    - Optometric Industry
    - Optometric Clinicians

- Form relationships with other healthcare professions
  - Hospital and other external rotations
  - Staff ophthalmologists at some residencies or ophthalmology external rotations for other residencies
  - Referrals/co-management during your residency
Why Pursue a Residency?

- Increase professional opportunities
  - Schools and colleges of optometry, referral/surgery centers, VAMC and private practitioners search for residency-trained optometrists
  - Industry searches for residency-trained optometrists
  - Obtain hospital credentials and privileges
  - Opportunities for leadership roles in professional optometric associations
  - Opportunities providing CME at national meetings

Residencies OPEN doors
Disadvantages of Pursuing an Optometric Residency

- Delayed gratification of $$$
- Delayed establishment of your personal/private practice
- Personal reasons
Choosing a Residency

- Information regarding each residency is available at:
  - ASCO – [http://www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)
  - Affiliated school or college of optometry residency website
- Currently 160 accredited residencies which have more than 340 residency positions
Opportunities for More Information

American Academy of Optometry
Student Networking Luncheon (lunch provided)

American Optometric Association
AOSA Residency Forum
Choosing Your Residency

- Select area(s) of emphasis; type of residency
- Consider area of country
- Consider specifics of each residency
  - Reputation of residency
  - Residency supervisor and residency director
- Visit each residency for an interview
  - Interview is a two way street
  - Most important step for both applicant and supervisor
- Talk to current/previous residents of each residency
Residency Application

Must apply to **both**:

- Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch)
  - February 15 – Closing date for ORMatch Application Service
  - Fee is $150 to apply to up to ten programs ($15 for each additional program)

- Affiliated School or College Residency
  - Each program sets its own application deadline, which may be before or after February 15 (contact programs for more information)
Residency Application

- Commonly includes:
  - ORMatch Application Form
  - NBEO Scores (ORMatch will distribute NBEO scores to programs to which you apply)
  - Programs may require supporting documents such as the following:
    - CV
    - Letters of Reference
    - Transcripts
    - Personal Statement
Residency Application

- Ranking Deadlines:
  - Around March 1 – Submission of applicant and program Rank Order Lists
  - Around March 11 – Results of ORMatch are released to applicants and program coordinators
  - Around March 11 to April 11 – Confirmation letters sent to applicants
ORMatch Ranking

- Applicants rank their preferences
  - Do NOT rank a residency that you do NOT want
- Programs rank their preferences
  - Programs do NOT match applicants they would rather not have
- ORMatch’s matching algorithm uses the preferences stated on the Rank Order Lists submitted by applicants and programs to place individuals into positions
- Applicants and residencies are expected to honor their match
- Unethical for applicants and residencies to “make a deal” outside of ORMatch
Optometric Residencies

- QUESTIONS?