

SUMMARY

RESIDENCY PROGRAM FUNDING & PROMOTION SURVEY 2014-2015 Academic Year

ASCO's 2014-2015 Residency Program Funding and Promotion Survey was conducted in October, 2014. Eighteen of 21 ASCO member schools and colleges of optometry have residency programs and participated in the survey. A total of 374 residency slots were reported, a 14% increase since 2012 (when there were 329 slots), and an increase of 50% since 2006 (when there were 249 slots).

Of the 374 slots, 48% are Veterans Administration (VA) residencies funded by the VA. Twenty-two percent are residencies in the clinics of the schools/colleges that are funded by the school/college, and another 22% percent are residencies in external (non-VA) institutions and are funded externally. The remaining slots are residencies in non-VA external institutions funded by the US military, residencies in non-VA external institutions funded by both the school/college and by the external institution, residencies in the school/college clinics funded by both the school/college and an external institution, residencies in school/college clinics funded by the US military, and VA residencies funded by both the school/college and the VA.

There were no residencies reported in the following categories: residencies in the clinics of the school/college that are funded externally, residencies in non-VA external institutions funded by the school/college, and VA residencies funded by the school/college.

Half of all residency slots are in VA facilities, with the other half split about evenly between the school/college clinic environment and external non-VA institutions.

For residency programs funded by optometry schools, stipends ranged from \$25,000 to \$40,644; the average for all schools was \$34,963. (Each school is weighted equally regardless of the number of residency slots.) Stipends for programs funded by the V.A. ranged from \$31,319 to \$37,842 and for externally-funded programs ranged from \$28,000 to \$62,338. Averages are not available for the latter two categories.

At least some residents carry faculty status at seven of the schools/colleges, at least some are considered to be employees at 17 of the schools/colleges, and all residents are considered to be alumni at fourteen institutions.

All eighteen institutions reported that both fringe and educational benefits are given to some portion of residents. Fringe benefits include but are not limited to malpractice/liability insurance (94%), health insurance (89%), vacation/personal leave (72%), and sick leave (44%). Educational benefits include but are not limited to a travel/meeting stipends (100%) and free or discounted continuing education (56%). Alumni benefits include but are not limited to alumni events or other on-campus programs (33%), library/online privileges (33%), continuing education opportunities (22%) and alumni publications/communications (22%).

Ten schools reported that all of their residency programs are accredited. The remaining eight schools had sixteen programs among them that are unaccredited. Of these programs, one has had an ACOE site visit and site visits have been requested for fourteen other programs.

Institutions reported that they promote and/or provide descriptive information on residency opportunities using, but not limited to, the following means:

- Institutional website (100%)
- AAO functions/promotion (78%)
- AOA/AOSA functions (67%)
- Printed Catalogue (61%)
- Brochures/E-Brochures/Information Sheets (56%)
- Residency Day/Formal Presentations to Students (44%)
- *AOSA Foresight* publication (39%)