



# ASSOCIATION *of* SCHOOLS *and* COLLEGES *of* OPTOMETRY

For more information:  
<http://asco.surveydomain.org/residency/search>

## Optometric Residencies

“THE CORNEA AND CONTACT LENS RESIDENCY HAS PROVIDED ME WITH INVALUABLE PATIENT EXPERIENCE AND CONFIDENCE THAT WOULD NORMALLY COME WITH SEVERAL YEARS OF PRACTICING OPTOMETRY.”

**program** Completing a residency in optometry is a unique and invaluable experience! The rich rewards gained from the year of advanced clinical training under an experienced mentor serve to enhance career opportunities and add to the level of confidence the resident has when beginning his/her post-residency career.

Optometric residency programs, which typically start in the summer and last for one year, provide a stipend that varies depending on the institution funding the program. Currently, there are 235 optometric residency programs with more than 437 approved positions that are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE).

Specific information on both accredited and non-accredited programs can be accessed through ASCO's Online Residency Program Directory at <http://asco.surveydomain.org/residency/search>.

**areas of emphasis** There are currently eleven (11) areas of emphasis for optometric residencies:

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

The title of each residency reflects the primary focus of the clinical subject area and indicates advanced clinical education in that subject area.

**employment** Many schools and colleges of optometry require residency training as a basic qualification for new clinical faculty positions. The Veterans Health Administration has always looked favorably at residency training as a prerequisite for employment at its hospitals and outpatient clinics. Growing numbers of traditional private practice optometrists who are seeking an associate or partner are aware of the benefits of residency training and prefer applicants with that credential. For those wishing to pursue employment opportunities with ophthalmology, or in multi-disciplinary practice settings, the value-added benefits of residency training are carefully considered by those potential employers whose backgrounds reflect the traditional medical model of training.

**deadlines** Applicants must submit applications to programs through the ORMatch application service. The ORMatch application service will provide the information submitted by each applicant to the programs designated by the applicant. ORMatch opens in October each year and usually closes at the end of January. Most programs require a face-to-face interview by all applicants. Program supervisors and applicants must rank their choices through ORMatch by the ranking deadline which is typically in late February. ORMatch releases match results within a week of the ranking deadline. Please visit the ORMatch website at <http://natmatch.com> for a full discussion of application procedures and deadlines.

“THE RESIDENCY HAS PROVIDED ME WITH UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AND UNPARALLELED EXPERIENCE THAT WILL BENEFIT MY FUTURE CAREER AS A DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY.”