



SUMMARY

RESIDENCY PROGRAM FUNDING & PROMOTION SURVEY 2016-2017 Academic Year

ASCO's 2016-2017 Residency Program Funding and Promotion Survey was conducted in January 2018. Data was collected from 19 schools and colleges of optometry in the 50 states and Puerto Rico and from 2 in Canada. Four additional U.S. member schools did not have residency programs in 2016-17 and did not participate in the survey. The Residency Program Funding and Promotion Survey is a biennial survey which was last conducted in 2014-15.

A total of 442 residency slots affiliated with U.S. schools were reported, a 13% increase since 2014-15 (when there were 392 slots), and an increase of 78% since 2006-07 (when there were 249 slots). In 2016-17 there were 7 additional slots affiliated with Canadian schools.

Of the 442 slots, 47% are Veterans Administration (VA) residencies funded by the VA. Twenty-eight percent are residencies in external (non-VA) institutions and are funded externally, and 19% are residencies in the clinics of the schools/colleges that are funded by the school/college. The remaining slots are residencies in the school/college clinics funded by both the school/college and an external institution (3%), in the school/college and funded externally (2%), at non-VA external institutions and funded by the U.S. military (1%) and at a non-VA external institution funded by both the school/college and by the external institution (less than 1%).

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

For U.S. residency programs funded by optometry schools, stipends ranged from \$30,000 to \$41,600; the average for all schools was \$36,691, a 5% increase from two years ago. (Each school is weighted equally regardless of the number of residency slots.) Stipends for externally-funded programs ranged from \$16,848 to \$64,228, and stipends funded by the V.A. ranged from \$31,965 to \$38,010. Averages are not available for the latter two categories.

Residents at 6 of the 21 participating U.S. and Canadian schools carry faculty or adjunct faculty rank, at 18 schools are considered to be employees, and at 13 schools are considered to be alumni.

All 21 schools provide fringe benefits to residents, with all providing health and malpractice insurance and 13 providing vacation or personal leave. Twenty out of 21 offer educational benefits, with 18 providing travel/meeting stipends and 8 free or discounted continuing education. Alumni benefits include library/online privileges (5 schools) and alumni events or other on-campus programs (3 schools).

Seventeen schools reported that all of their residency programs are accredited. The remaining four schools had eight programs among them that were unaccredited in 2016-17. One of these programs is now accredited and another has had an ACOE site visit and accreditation is pending. The remaining six unaccredited programs are at Canadian member schools. Three of these programs have ACOE site visits scheduled for spring 2018.

Institutions reported that they promote and/or provide descriptive information on residency opportunities using the following means:

- Institutional website (100%)
- Printed brochure/fact sheet (100%)
- AAO functions/promotion (90%)
- Residency Day/formal presentations to students (90%)
- Electronic brochures/fact sheets (86%)
- AOA/AOSA functions/promotion (76%)
- Publications (43%)
- Social Media (38%)
- Other (33%)