



VA OPTOMETRIC RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has the largest optometric clinical training program in the United States. Nationwide, there are over 145 ACOE accredited post-graduate residency and more than 1025 externship positions available annually for clinical training. Former VA residents are among the most successful and nationally recognized individuals within the profession.

In today's changing health care environment, it is important to plan for the future. All current indicators suggest that the demand for optometrists with residency training will continue to rise. Already, many of the best jobs require post-graduate residency certification.

Regardless of ultimate career goals, a VA residency can be an excellent "stepping stone." The opportunity to acquire an outstanding position within a practice or managed care organization is enhanced by having completed a VA residency. Prior VA residents are also given preference for VA staff positions. Many others have obtained faculty appointments at a School or College of Optometry due to their VA residency credentials.

UNIQUE BENEFITS OF A VA RESIDENCY

- An outstanding 12 month (July 1 - June 30) clinical patient care experience serving a challenging and rewarding veteran population
- A stimulating interdisciplinary environment where the resident learns to coordinate quality primary optometric eye care with other health care services to maximize patient care outcomes and learning experiences
- Research and academic opportunities mentored by experienced clinicians who are among the most published optometrists worldwide
- Vacation, national holidays, and sick days along with authorized absence for approved continuing education
- Competitive annual salary
- Health & Life Insurance plans available

Each VA residency program is unique as experiences and opportunities are different at each site. More specific residency program information can be obtained by contacting the individual sites.

RESIDENCY TRAINING

All residents receive training in primary eye care, serving as part of an interdisciplinary team working to provide high quality patient care. With a primarily geriatric patient population, ocular disease management is a significant portion of the training experience. Residents augment their training through various medical service rotations, grand rounds, and/or other professional development activities.

LOW VISION REHABILITATION

In addition to the above mentioned advanced competence areas, certain programs offer some training in low vision care. This experience typically includes exposure to a professional team of highly qualified providers with unique skills for care of visually impaired veterans.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, have passed Parts I & II of the NBEO examinations, and have received a Doctor of Optometry degree from an ACOE accredited School or College of Optometry by July 1 of the residency year. Prior to residency completion, the applicant is required to obtain state licensure.

APPLICATION

Transcripts, NBEO scores, letters of recommendation, and on-site interviews are factors considered for selection to a VA residency program. All applications are submitted through the Optometry Residency Matching Service, Inc. (ORMS) at:

<http://www.optometryresident.org>

VA RESIDENCY PROGRAM SITES

Alabama
 Birmingham VAMC †† 205/933-8101 x5105
 Patti Fuhr, O.D., Ph.D. patti.fuhr@va.gov
 Tuscaloosa VAMC 205/554-2847
 Nathan Whitaker, O.D. nathan.whitaker@va.gov

Arizona
 Southern Arizona VA Health Care Sys.-Tucson †† 520/792-1450 x6551
 Amy Grimes, O.D. amy.grimes@va.gov

Arkansas
 Fayetteville VAMC 479/443-4301 x5393
 Mary Jo Horn, O.D. mary.horn@va.gov

California
 VA Central California HCS Fresno 559/225-6100 x5101
 Deana Lum, O.D. deana.lum2@va.gov
 GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
 • Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center †† 213/253-2677 x4624
 Chang H. Kim, O.D. chang.kim@va.gov
 • Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center and Nursing Home 818/891-7711 x7744
 Steven Ferrucci, O.D. steven.ferrucci@va.gov
 • West Los Angeles Health Care Center †† 310/478-3711 x42356
 Pauline Ilsen, O.D. pauline.ilsen@va.gov
 San Diego VAMC †† 858/552-8585 x6779
 Dawn Pewitt, O.D. dawn.pewitt@va.gov
 San Francisco VAMC 415/221-4810 x2683
 Bernard Dolan, O.D., M.S. bernard.dolan@va.gov
 Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care Sys †† 650/493-5000 x62020
 David Yang, O.D. david.yang@va.gov
 VA CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Connecticut
 • Newington Campus 860/667-6742
 Sharon Bisighini, O.D. sharon.bisighini@va.gov
 • West Haven Campus †† 203/932-5711 x2760
 Nancy Shenouda-Awad, O.D. nancy.shenouda-awad@va.gov

Delaware
 Wilmington VAMC 302/994-2511 x4199
 Brian Mahoney, O.D. brian.mahoney@va.gov

Florida
 Bay Pines VAMC 727/398-6661 x4981
 Jenette Cantrell, O.D. jenette.cantrell@va.gov
 Daytona Beach Outpatient Clinic 386/323-7500 x30155
 Dianne Kowing, O.D. dianne.kowing@va.gov
 Gainesville VAMC 352/271-5967
 Susannah Marcus, O.D. susannah.marcus@va.gov
 Lake City VAMC †† 386/755-3016 x7500
 Wendy McGonigal, O.D. wendy.mcgonigal@va.gov
 Orlando VAMC 407/629-1599 x1725
 John Spalding, O.D. john.spalding@va.gov
 Tallahassee VAOPC 850/878-0191 x2176
 Joni Scott-Weideman, O.D. joni.scott-weideman@va.gov

Illinois
 Jesse Brown VA Medical Center †† 312/569-7505
 Thomas Stelmack, O.D. thomas.stelmack@va.gov
 http://www.chicagovaoptometryresidency.org
 Hines VAH †† 708/202-2124
 Joan Stelmack, OD joan.stelmack@va.gov
 VA Illiana Health Care System 217/554-5403
 Stephen Boyer, O.D. stephen.boyer@va.gov

Indiana
 Northern Indiana Health Care System: Fort Wayne Division 260/460-1442
 Sara Schamerloh, O.D. sara.schamerloh@va.gov

Kansas
 Wichita MAMROC †† 316/685-2221 x53122
 Michelle Dent, O.D. michelle.dent2@va.gov

Kentucky
 Lexington VAMC †† 859/233-4511 x3610
 Michelle Lynch, O.D. michelle.lynch@va.gov

Maine
 Togus VAMROC 207/623-8411 x7331
 James Smith, O.D. james.smith20@va.gov

Maryland
 VA MARYLAND HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
 • Baltimore Division †† 410/605-7230
 Anthony B. Litwak, O.D. anthony.litwak@va.gov
 • Perry Point Division 410/642-2411 x5080
 Amy J. Quan, O.D., F.A.A.O. amy.quan@va.gov

Massachusetts
 Bedford VAMC 781/687-2538
 Donee Wong, O.D. donee.wong@va.gov
 VA Boston Healthcare System
 • Brockton Division 508/583-4500 x61106
 Kevin Toolin, O.D. kevin.toolin@va.gov
 • Brockton/Worcester Division 508/583-4500 x61106
 Kevin Toolin, O.D. kevin.toolin@va.gov
 • Jamaica Plain Division †† 857/364-6508
 Tak Chau, O.D. tak.chau@va.gov
 • West Roxbury Division 617/323-7700 x35438
 Lisa Fanciullo, O.D. lisa.fanciullo@va.gov

Michigan
 Battle Creek VAMC †† 269/966-5600 x32455
 Michael Vandever, O.D., M.P.A. michael.vandever@va.gov

Michigan
 Detroit VAMC †† 313/576-1000 x65742
 Phillip Elston, O.D. phillip.elston@va.gov
 Grand Rapids VAOPC 616/365-9575 x37585
 Douglas Coon, O.D. douglas.coon@va.gov

Missouri
 Kansas City VAMC †† 816/861-4700 x57434
 Timothy Harkins, O.D. timothy.harkins@va.gov
 St. Louis VAMC †† 314/652-4100 x3619
 Steve Grondalski, O.D. steven.grondalski@va.gov
 Las Vegas VAMC †† 702/636-3023
 Lane Fujimoto, O.D. lane.fujimoto@va.gov
 Reno VAMC 775/786-7200 x4507
 Marla Plecha, O.D. marla.plecha@va.gov
 Manchester VAMC 603/624-4366 x6675
 Nadia Zalatimo, O.D. nadia.zalatimo@va.gov
 VA New Jersey Health Care System †† 908/647-0180 x4590
 Malinda A. Cafiero, O.D. malinda.cafiero@va.gov
 Cathy Marques, O.D. cathy.marques@va.gov

New Mexico
 Albuquerque VAMC †† 505/265-1711 x5620
 Michael Sullivan-Mee, O.D. michael.sullivan-mee@va.gov
 Brooklyn Campus - NY Harbor Health Care System †† 718/836-6600 x6497
 Evan Canellos, O.D. evan.canellos@va.gov
 Hudson Valley Health Care System †† 914/737-4400 x2014
 Nancy Wong, O.D., Ph.D. nancy.wong@va.gov
 Northport VAMC †† 631/261-4400 x2136
 Michael McGovern, O.D. michael.mcgovern@va.gov
 Salisbury VAMC †† 704/638-3825 x3783
 Jeffrey Joy, O.D. jeffrey.joy1@va.gov
 Chillicothe VAMC 740/773-1141 x7853
 Brian Montgomery, O.D. brian.montgomery@va.gov
 Cincinnati VAMC †† 740/861-3100 x4132
 Kelly Thompson, O.D. kelly.thompson4@va.gov
 Cleveland VAMC †† 216/791-3800 x5405
 Stacia Snyder Yaniglos, O.D. stacia.yaniglos@va.gov
 Columbus Outpatient Clinic 614/257-5392
 Brett Irvin, O.D. brett.irvin@va.gov
 Dayton VAMC †† 937/267-5377
 Gregory A. Kiracofe, O.D. gregory.kiracofe@va.gov

Oklahoma
 Muskogee VAMC 918/577-3335
 Angela Charlton, O.D. angela.charlton@va.gov

Oregon
 Portland VAMC †† 503/220-8262 x54400
 Weon Jun, O.D. weon.jun@va.gov
 Roseburg VAMC 541/440-1000 x45789
 Bryan Deck, O.D. bryan.deck@va.gov

Pennsylvania
 Philadelphia VAMC †† 215/823-4112
 Arthur Alexander, O.D. author.alexander@va.gov
 Wilkes-Barre VAMC 570/824-3521 x7503
 James Check, O.D. james.check@va.gov
 Dorn Veterans Hospital †† 803/776-4000 x7062
 William McGill, O.D. william.mcgill@va.gov

South Carolina
 Memphis VAMC †† 901/523-8990 x5550
 James Williamson, O.D. james.williamson4@va.gov
 Johnson City - James H. Quillen VAMC 423/926-1171 x7127
 Loren Bennett, O.D., M.P.H. loren.bennett@va.gov

Tennessee
 Amarillo VAMC 806/355-9703 x7238
 David Trout, O.D., M.B.A. david.trout@va.gov
 Salt Lake City VAMC †† 801/582-1565 x4812
 Harald Olafsson, O.D. harald.olafsson@va.gov
 White River Junction VAMC †† 802/295-9363 x5248
 Dorothy Hitchmoth, O.D. dorothy.hitchmoth@va.gov
 Hampton VAMC †† 757/722-9961 x1521 or x2955
 Gay Tokumaru, O.D. gay.tokumaru@va.gov
 Salem VAMC 540/982-2463 x1248
 Scott Slagle, O.D., F.A.A.O. scott.slagle@va.gov

Washington
 VA Puget Sound Health Care System, American Lake Division †† 253/583-1232
 Jeffery A. Hiett, O.D., M.S. jeffery.hiett@va.gov
 Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VAMC 509/527-3491
 Barbara Hetrick, O.D. barbara.hetrick@va.gov
 Spokane VAMC †† 509/434-7032 or 509/434-7250
 Thomas Riley, O.D. thomas.riley1@va.gov

West Virginia
 Huntington VAMC †† 304/429-6755 x2696
 Matthew G. Cordes O.D. matthew.cordes@va.gov
 http://www.OcularDisease.com

†† Offers some low vision experience – contact program for specifics.



VA OPTOMETRIC RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

VA OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS & VA OPTOMETRIC SERVICE

Contact Persons:

Dr. John Townsend in VA Optometric Service at:
John.Townsend@va.gov or
 (410) 779-1576

Dr. Robert Zeiss in
 VA Office of Academic Affiliations at:
Robert.Zeiss@va.gov or
 (202) 357-4028

Residency Program details may be viewed at:
www.va.gov/optometry/ or www.va.gov/oa/