

Optometric Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1. To recruit a qualified graduating or graduate optometrist to fill the class.

Objectives:

- a. A commitment for funding will be made by the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University through its annual budgeting process such that resident salaries are commensurate with the current market each year and that an appropriate budget is in place to support the program.
- b. The residency mission statement along with program information will be published on-line that includes a description of the program, employment benefits, sample schedules and application procedures. The written catalog will be sent electronically when requested by interested candidates.
- c. Advertisements will be placed in the AOA *Foresight* and flyers will be sent to all accredited optometry schools. Flyers, and when possible a representative, will be present at the AOA and AAO meetings for recruitment purposes.
- d. A committee will be convened to interview all qualified candidates, either in person or on the phone. All interviews will be completed by the end of February. Ranking of candidates will be completed by the end of February.
- e. Candidates will be offered positions in rank order until all positions are filled in accordance with the Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) system.

Goal 2. To elevate knowledge and skills to an advanced level in the management of patients with visual impairment, and to develop a knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary strategies for the habilitation/rehabilitation of visually impaired patients.

Objectives:

- a. The resident will be assigned to the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center in The Eye Institute an average of three days a week to provide direct care and to supervise fourth year optometry students in the care of patients with visual impairment resulting from such conditions as: age related macular degeneration; retinal disorders/dystrophies; retinal vascular disease; glaucoma; neuro-visual diseases/disorders; congenital/hereditary visual disorders.

- b. The resident will acquire advanced low vision rehabilitation skills, such as prescribing and fitting spectacle mounted magnification devices, fresnel prisms, reverse telescope devices, and electronic magnification devices, as well as evaluating eccentric fixation, and training individuals with visual impairments in the use of residual vision with and without adaptive devices.
- c. The resident will receive specialized instruction from the optometrists, social workers, and rehabilitation professionals in this service.
- d. The resident will be assigned to the satellite low vision programs at the Overbrook School for the Blind, Overbrook Educational Center, and several regional school systems' intermediate units in the Delaware Valley. The resident will participate as a member of a team that provides low vision evaluation and rehabilitation services to visually impaired school aged children. The resident will be under the direct supervision of the team members which include a staff optometrist and a member of the rehabilitation staff.

Goal 3. To develop the knowledge and skills necessary for the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of patients with visual impairment associated with closed head trauma, stroke, and multiple impairments and/or developmental disabilities.

Objectives:

- a. The resident will be assigned to the Special Populations and Rehabilitation in The Eye Institute to participate in a team that provides direct care to patients with multiple impairments. The resident will provide low vision rehabilitation services under the supervision of clinical faculty. The resident will be assigned to the Neuro-visual Rehabilitation Service at Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital during the year to provide care in the co-management of patients with a variety of neurological disorders/diseases, which include stroke, closed head injury, multiple sclerosis, and brain tumors.
- b. The resident will acquire advanced skills needed to evaluate non-verbal, developmentally and cognitively disabled patients in such areas as preferential looking testing procedures, specialized refractions, binocular vision assessments, and adaptive visual field assessment.
- f. The resident will receive specialized instruction from the optometrists, social workers, and mobility instructors in these services.

Goal 4. To enhance the resident's skills in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease.

Objectives:

- a. The resident will be assigned to Emergency Services an average of one day per month (2 sessions), both as a direct provider and as a supervisor of optometry interns, to triage and see patients presenting with urgent eye care needs. The resident will also be on-call 4-5 weeks during the year to provide

direct care to patients presenting with urgent eye care needs when The Eye Institute is closed.

- b. The resident will be assigned to the following Services a minimum of 24 hours over the course of the year to provide direct care in the co-management of patients along with subspecialty optometrists and/or ophthalmologists.

- 1) Vitreo-Retinal Disease Service
- 2) Specialty Glaucoma Service
- 3) Neuro-Eye Service

Goal 5. To enhance the resident's ability to co-manage secondary and tertiary care patients through inter-disciplinary consultation and referral.

Objectives:

- a. The resident will have the responsibility of making appropriate referrals for patients to Specialty Services within The Eye Institute and to outside practitioners for consultation and/or management.
- b. The resident will coordinate care with rehabilitation agencies, educational facilities, and rehabilitative facilities. The resident will make appropriate referrals to these agencies and successfully manage referrals from these agencies.
- c. The resident will prepare summary reports for patients under their care.
- d. The resident will receive instruction in appropriate documentation and coding of patient encounters in order to comply with HCFA standards.

Goal 6. To provide a substantive orientation program that will prepare the resident to assume their patient care responsibilities in The Eye Institute.

Objectives:

- a. An orientation program will be held during the first two weeks of the residency. Each resident will attend presentations on and will be provided with a handbook that will include information on:
 - 1) The University calendar and various schedules;
 - 2) The Eye Institute operations
 - 3) Patient care protocols
 - 4) Teaching
 - 5) University systems, such as computers and the library
 - 6) University policies in such areas as sexual harassment, use of University property including computers and the internet, and the inclement weather policy.
 - 7) Electronic Health Records Training
 - 8) HIPAA training

b. During the orientation, the resident will begin to participate in patient care alongside the faculty and outgoing residents in order to familiarize the resident to the personnel and systems in the services to which the resident will be assigned.

Goal 7. To provide a didactic program throughout the year that will increase the resident's fund of knowledge regarding diagnosis and management of ophthalmic dysfunction and ocular disease.

Objectives:

- a. Throughout the year, lectures and seminars will be scheduled for the residents, and attendance records will be maintained.
- b. Seminars will be held specifically for the residents in which clinical faculty and guest speakers will present various topics related to ocular and systemic disease, advanced prescribing and contact lens considerations, low vision, and pediatrics. Approximately thirty 90-minute presentations will be scheduled during the year.
- c. A minimum of 12 hours of lecture will be presented by optometric and ophthalmologic sub-specialists on the following topics:
 - 1) Cornea and anterior segment disease
 - 2) Retinal disease and fluorescein angiography
 - 3) Glaucoma
 - 4) Emergency patient care
 - 5) Ocular pathology

Goal 8. To promote development of the resident's skills as an educator and self-learner.

Objectives:

- a. As part of the orientation, the resident will receive instruction on being a teacher, both in the clinical setting and in the laboratory to which the resident will be assigned. The resident will then appropriately supervise patient care by fourth year optometry students under the guidance of clinical faculty. The resident will also teach in clinical and didactic laboratories along with more experienced clinical and didactic educators at the University.
- b. The resident will have the opportunity to hone public speaking skills through participation in the Grand Rounds/Clinical Challenges program at least twice during the year by preparing and presenting a case to faculty, fellow residents, fourth year students, and local optometric practitioners attending for continuing education credit.
- c. The resident will prepare a poster or paper of publishable quality before the end of the program.

Goal 9. To enhance the resident's professional behavior and interpersonal skills.

Objectives:

- a. The resident will be assigned to various patient care services in which they will demonstrate responsibility, sensitivity, maturity, sound judgement, and ethical behavior toward all people involved in the patient care experience.
- b. In all personal and professional interactions with members of the College community, the resident will demonstrate collegiality and respect.

Goal 10. To provide a suitable environment in which the resident can flourish.

Objectives:

- a. The resident will be supplied with an office that will include a desk, a chair, a telephone, and storage space. The resident will also have access to a computer, including internet access.
- b. The University and The Eye Institute will provide sufficient financial and personnel resources to support the educational objectives of this program.
- c. The University will publish and enforce non-discrimination policies, employee guidelines, and patient rights.