



Residency Program in Primary Care, Ocular Disease & Geriatrics at the St. Louis VA Medical Center

Program Description

This Residency provides advanced clinical training in primary care optometry with an emphasis on geriatric patients and diseases of the elderly.

Extensive clinical experience is gained by providing care to the St. Louis VA Medical Center's patient population of adult and elderly patients. A strong point of the program is the one-on-one interaction with the program's experienced faculty.

The Residency is associated with the medical center's Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC). The St. Louis GRECC and the twenty-four other GRECCs across the nation are recognized as leaders in advancing geriatric care.

The program has areas of flexibility that can be adapted to meet the particular interests of the resident.

Curriculum

The primary means of learning and skill development is direct patient care. Because of the nature of the veteran population and the treatment programs available at our medical center, the resident is exposed to a wide range of medical and ocular diagnoses.

A number of other activities are built into the program to broaden the overall learning experience. During the year the resident

- participates in optometry conferences and grand rounds
- attends geriatric and ophthalmology grand rounds and seminars, and also continuing optometric/medical education
- supervises fourth year optometry students training at the VA Medical Center
- develops scholarship and literature research skills by working on a paper of publishable quality.

The resident's schedule is comprised of four full days a week in clinical care and approximately one full day for independent study and professional development.

Program Content

The Residency at the St. Louis VA Medical Center provides the resident with the opportunity to:

- diagnose and treat the full range of visual problems of the elderly patients
- manage eye diseases of the elderly including cataract, glaucoma, age-related macular disease and diabetic retinopathy
- provide basic low vision care
- provide contact lens care for patients with challenging conditions such as aphakia and corneal irregularity
- work in a hospital setting and interact with other health professionals
- function as part of a multidisciplinary geriatric evaluation team
- gain experience in ordering imaging studies and laboratory tests and have direct access to the results
- rotate through subspecialty clinics
- conduct and participate in research.

Application/Admission

The Residency participates in the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMS). The ORMS application must be completed by February 1 in accordance with directions found at <http://www.optometryresident.org>

The Selection Committee will consider an applicant's file complete and ready for consideration when the following material has been received:

- Letter describing your interest in the residency
- Curriculum vitae
- Official copies of optometry school transcript*
- Official copies of all the National board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) scores* completed to date

- Eligibility for licensure in a state or territory of the United States

- Three letters of recommendations

* Photocopies are initially permitted. However, if you are selected and accept the residency position, you are required to provide official NBEO scores and official optometric education transcripts.

Selection Procedures

The Selection Committee has the responsibility to review and evaluate all applicants. Those applicants whom the Committee feels to be most competitive will be scheduled for a required interview.

All correspondence and inquiries, including application materials, should be addressed to:

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