

# Residency in Pediatric Optometry with an emphasis in Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation

## Arkansas Vision Development Center

Arkansas Vision Development Center  
1021 South Waldron Road  
Fort Smith, AR 72903



Program Coordinator: Wanda Vaughn, OD, FCOVD

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Program Mission

The mission of the residency is to provide advanced clinical training in pediatric optometry and vision therapy rehabilitation in a private practice setting. The resident will develop as an expert clinician in a family optometric practice and master the diagnostic, management, and treatment of vision disorders in a variety of patient types. Upon completion, the resident will be knowledgeable in practice management and be skilled to efficiently lead and operate a practice with emphasis in providing vision therapy/rehabilitation with success.

### Program Goals & Objectives

#### Program Mission

The mission of the residency is to provide advanced clinical training in pediatric optometry and vision therapy/rehabilitation in a private practice setting. The resident will develop advanced clinical competence in the management, of a wide variety of ocular and vision disorders in children. Upon completion the resident will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader and to operate a successful optometric practice that specializes in providing vision therapy/rehabilitation.

### Program Goals & Objectives

#### Goal 1:

Attract a large and diversified and well-qualified pool of applicants.

#### Objectives:

1. Advertise to all 4th year optometry students in all schools of optometry in the US, Canada and Puerto Rico through various forms of written and oral communication.
2. Contact each interested applicant and provide them with detailed information on the application process and program.
3. An adequate pool of qualified candidates will contact the Program Director or Coordinator for information on the program or complete application through ORMatch.

**Outcome:** A qualified candidate will be selected for the program.

**Measure:** A copy of all written advertisements will be stored. Communications with applicants will be documented. Documentation of residency awareness events.

**Goal 2:**

To select a resident through an impartial process.

**Objectives:**

1. The same interview questions will be asked of each candidate.
2. The selection process will include the candidate's personal statement, curriculum vitae, official transcripts from optometry school and all post-graduate schools, test scores from NBEO Part 1, Part 2, and at least 3 letters of reference (two from individuals who are familiar with the candidate's clinical skills).
3. The Program Coordinator will select and rank the most qualified applicants.. The ranked list of candidates will be submitted to the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMatch) in accordance with their policies and deadlines.

**Outcome:** The best qualified candidate will be selected for the position.

**Measure:** A copy of all written questions and candidate information will be stored and documented.

**Goal 3:**

Enhance the resident's proficiency in performing optometric exam procedure with utilization of appropriate technology.

**Objective 1:** Resident will conduct (500) complete exams, and 300 follow-up exams.

**Outcome:** The resident will develop a high degree of skill and efficiency in the evaluation of patients.

**Measure:** The resident will report on the number of patient encounters and type using the activity log.

**Objective 2:** The resident will perform and/or interpret clinical tests utilizing advanced ophthalmic diagnostic instrumentation (e.g., Visual Field, Electrophysiological, and Visagraph) on at least 50 patients.

**Outcome:** The resident will develop advanced clinical competence in the utilization of ophthalmic diagnostic instrumentation.

**Measure:** The resident will log on the number of patient encounters of this type using the activity log.

**Goal 4:**

The resident will develop advance clinical competence in the evaluation, diagnosis, and proper management of ocular and visual conditions affecting children and patients of diverse conditions.

**Objective 1:** The resident will appropriately manage refractive error in children.

**Outcome:** The resident will become proficient in management of refractive error in children.

**Measure:** The resident will log the number of patient encounters by an activity log.

**Objective 2:** The resident will select and fit contact lenses in 50 children with high refractive errors, anisometropia, pseudophakia, or other complex refractive conditions.

**Outcome:** The resident will become proficient with fitting children with contact lenses.

**Measure:** The resident will report on the number of contact lens fit of these types by the activity log.

**Objective 3:** The resident will care for 50 children with Autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, and other learning disorders.

**Outcome:** The resident will gain experience and clinical confidence in working with children with special needs.

**Measure:** The resident will log encounter type in activity log.

**Goal 5:**

Develop advance clinical competence in establishing treatment plans and providing vision therapy/rehabilitation with success.

**Objective 1:** The resident will appropriately assess procedures and treatment of 50 patients with binocular vision disorders as it relates to learning-related vision disorders.

**Outcome:** The resident will expand their knowledge and clinical confidence in establishing treatment plan and providing vision therapy to patients with binocular vision disorders.

**Measure:** The resident will report the number of patient encounters of these types by an activity log.

**Objective 2:** The resident will appropriately assess procedures and treatment of 50 patients with strabismus.

**Outcome:** The resident will expand their knowledge and clinical confidence in establishing treatment plan and providing vision therapy to patients with strabismus.

**Measure:** The resident will log the number of patient encounters of these types by activity log.

**Objective 3:** The resident will appropriately assess procedures and treatment of 50 patients with amblyopia.

**Outcome:** The resident will increase their knowledge and clinical confidence in establishing treatment plan and providing vision therapy to patients with amblyopia.

**Measure:** The resident will log the number of patient encounters of these types by the activity log.

**Goal 6:**

Engage the resident in scholarly activities and develop their verbal and written communication skills.

**Objective 1:** The resident will deliver a scholarly presentation on an optometric topic at least once per quarter to a health care professional.

**Outcome:** The resident will develop and practice communication skills to effectively present information to other professionals in group settings.

**Measure:** The resident will report on these types of activities using the activity log.

**Objective 2:** The resident will prepare at least one publications-quality manuscript on an approved topic.

**Outcome:** The resident will promote and disseminate knowledge through scholarly activity.

**Measure:** The resident will complete and turn in to program coordinator by completion date the manuscript.

**Objective 3:** The resident will complete monthly assigned topic reviews from sources such as literature review in journals, professional continuing education, book readings, etc.....

**Outcome:** The resident will gain knowledge from expert resources to enhance educational growth.

**Measure:** The resident will log completed assigned readings and log continuing educations that is approved.

**Objective 4:** The resident will complete 25 developmental visual evaluation reports and write 25 co-management letters to other professionals.

**Outcome:** The resident will gain experience in communicating and confidence in reporting of clinical information to other professionals to assist in patient care.

**Measure:** The resident will log number of reports and co-management letters in activity log.

**Goal 7:**

Developing the resident’s knowledge of practice management and it’s applications for a successful practice with an emphasis on vision therapy.

**Objective 1:** The resident will properly document and utilize diagnosis and service codes established by the College of Vision Development (COVD) and the American Optometric Association (AOA)- insurance, Vision Therapy, and Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation guidelines established to bill for vision therapy services.

**Outcome:** The resident will master the ability to document and appropriately code for reimbursement of vision therapy.

**Measure:** The resident will log number of weekly chart review with supervisor on proper documentation and code utilization.

**Objective 2:** The resident will spend a minimum of 1 hour weekly with insurance and billing logistics for vision therapy and pediatric care.

**Outcome:** The resident will gain experience and knowledge on insurance and billing as it contributes to vision therapy and pediatric billing in optometry.

**Measure:** The resident will log time allocated in billing/insurance in activity log.

**Objective 3:** Resident will participate in weekly team meetings and contribute in enhancing practice operations, practice management and development.

**Outcome:** Resident will gain experience in understanding practice management dynamics and importance of practice operations.

**Measure:** Resident will log attendance at weekly team meetings.

<b>Program Length</b>	12 months (53 weeks)
<b>Start Date</b>	The first Monday after the week of July 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Positions</b>	1
<b>Compensation</b>	\$33,000
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	40
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	ACOE Accredited
<b>Application Deadline</b>	January 31
<b>ORMatch Matching Service</b>	Yes

**Program Description**

This residency program is based at the Arkansas Vision Development Center in Ft Smith, Arkansas. The Arkansas Vision Development Center is a private practice dedicated to pediatric optometry and vision therapy. The residency is a full-time, formal, supervised program consisting of direct patient care, didactic education, practice management development and scholarly activities.

**Educational Opportunities**

The resident will engage in direct supervised patient care experiences at the Arkansas Vision Development Center. The resident will actively participate in team meetings/presentations and journal clubs to expand further their knowledge base. The resident will prepare and deliver internal and external presentations on related topics. The resident will join the Arkansas Vision Development Center team at continuing educational conferences in the field.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

1. Applicant must have earned an O.D. degree, or will have earned such a degree by the time of matriculation from a school/college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.
2. Applicant must pass all parts of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examinations and furnish official transcripts when available.
3. Applicant must be eligible for licensure to practice optometry in the State of Arkansas and must have legal right to live and work in the United States.

### **Certificate of Completion**

A certificate of completion will be awarded to the resident upon satisfactory completion of residency requirements. The completion requirements of the program are:

- Completed publishable quality paper (research paper, literature review, case report)
- Deliver one presentation on an optometric topic
- Submission of all residency evaluation forms (activity logs, exit evaluations)
- Successful fulfillment of all the residency program goals and objectives

## **RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE**

### **Pediatric Optometry & Vision Therapy**

The resident will spend approximately 80% of their time providing direct patient care at the Arkansas Vision Development Center. The majority of patients seen here are children under the age of 18, and many are presenting for evaluation and treatment of binocular vision or learning-related vision disorders. The resident will be exposed to a vast array of pediatric eye and vision disorders, including strabismus, amblyopia, accommodative and oculomotor imbalance, and developmental delay.

### **Practice Management Development**

Over the course of the residency program the resident will become engaged in the day-to-day management of a private optometric practice. The resident will learn how to properly code and bill for optometric services. The resident will develop leadership skills that are vital to successfully managing the staff of a private optometric practice. By the conclusion of the residency program the resident should be well-equipped with all the skills needed to successfully enter into private optometric practice.

### **Scholarly Activities**

The resident is required to write at least one paper of publishable quality by the end of the residency. The resident is required to make one presentation on an optometric topic. This may take any of several possible forms, including a seminar, continuing education lecture, guest lecture in an optometry course, or a paper or poster presentation at an academic meeting.

### **Employment Benefits**

The resident receives employment benefits as an employee of the Arkansas Vision Development Center.

<b>Health Insurance</b>	Health insurance is not offered by AVDC. The resident doctor may request quotes from an insurance carrier in which AVDC utilizes.
<b>Holidays/ Vacation</b>	There are 6 company holidays when the clinic is normally closed. 5 vacation days
<b>Continuing Education Leave</b>	5 educational leave days are offered to attend approved professional meetings.
<b>Sick Leave</b>	The resident is eligible for up to 5 days of paid time off for sick leave.
<b>Liability Insurance</b>	The Arkansas Vision Development Center provides that resident with professional liability insurance that covers their activities delivered in the course of the residency program.
<b>Fellow-ship application fee</b>	Application fee for certification for COVID-fellowship is paid at the end of completion of residency program.

In addition, residents are eligible for a \$500 travel stipend from the Rosenberg School of Optometry to help defray the cost of attending a national optometric conference during the course of the residency program.

Residents are able to attend continuing education sponsored by the Rosenberg School of Optometry at no charge for credit hours.

### **CALL OR EMAIL TODAY**

For additional information about this residency opportunity, please contact:

**Wanda Vaughn, OD, FCOVD**  
**Arkansas Vision Development Center**  
1021 South Waldron Road  
Fort Smith, AR 72903  
479-478-8860  
drvaughn@arkansasvision.com