

Fellowship in Sports Vision

University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry and USAF Lackland AFB



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Battlefield Airmen's Training Group at Lackland AFB TX

Program Coordinators:

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Mission

The Fellowship in Sports Vision and Vision Therapy, jointly administered by the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry (UIWRSO) and the United States Air Force (USAF), is advanced clinical training that is designed to extend and refine the optometrist's knowledge and skill in specific areas of developmental optometry, sports vision, and neuro-optometric vision therapy including management of dysfunctions of eye movement and the binocular vision system. Aspects of visual perceptual system assessment and management will also be covered. The fellowship will provide advanced didactic knowledge and a concentrated clinical experience in both a university and military setting with the emphasis of the program directed at achieving competence through clinical training. The candidate will also engage in scholarly activity and will be required to participate in the clinical education of optometry students. The first half of the Fellowship will be conducted at the civilian institution or VA clinic and the second half will be operational care with the Battlefield Airmen Group at JBSA Lackland.

Program Goals

1. Attain post-graduate education in the form of supervised direct patient care focusing on sports vision, vision therapy, and TBI with a special emphasis on enhancing visual performance in active duty air force personnel.
2. Elevate the fellow's clinical skills in the diagnosis and treatment of binocular vision disorders and deficiencies.

3. Attain proficiency in using innovative sports vision training equipment.
4. Attain proficiency in identifying binocular vision deficiencies and developing a training program to successfully improve the deficiencies.
5. Successfully identify clients'/athletes' specific visual demands and create training programs utilizing sports vision equipment and exercises to enhance visual skills.
6. Stimulate scholarly development through lectures, grand rounds, journal club, continuing education, research and case report activities.
7. Provide the fellow with scholarly, didactic and teaching experience.

Program Details

Program Length	12 months (53 weeks)
Start Date	July 1
Positions	1
Compensation	Consistent with rank or appointment
Hours Per Week	40 hrs
Accreditation Status	Not Accredited
Application Deadline	12 months prior to Start Date
ORMatch Matching Service	No

Program Description

This fellowship program is designed to provide extensive hands-on training in identifying specific binocular visual demands required by persons performing complex tasks and developing vision training programs to enhance visual performance. The fellowship is based at the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry for the first six months and at Lackland Air Force Base for the final six months. The fellowship is a full-time, formal, supervised program consisting of direct patient care, didactic education, and precepting of interns. This program is only available to Air Force Optometrists.

Educational Opportunities

The fellow will engage in direct supervised patient care experiences at UIWRSO's Eye Institute and at the Sports and Vision Enhancement Service Clinic. The Eye Institute will provide interactions with patients who require vision therapy, while the Sports and Vision Enhancement Service Clinic will offer opportunities to train with collegiate and youth athletes. The fellow will be involved with developing training programs as well as pursuing research opportunities. In addition, the fellow will have teaching responsibilities related to the optometry interns that rotate through the clinics from the Rosenberg School of Optometry. The fellow will also attend lecture courses focused on binocular vision and vision therapy as well as participate in labs specific to those courses.

Certificate of Completion

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

- Successful completion of all fellowship program goals and objectives
- Submit one (1) manuscript to peer reviewed publication (e.g. OVS, Journal of Optometry, Clinical & Experimental Optometry, etc.)
- Submit one (1) poster or paper abstract to a national conference (e.g. AAO, AOA, SECO, etc.)
- Deliver one (1) presentation of UIWRSO Sports Vision Fellowship Overview at local Alamo Tri-Service Optometric Society (ATOPS) meeting
- Presentation of six (6) case studies to UIW faculty and/or residents and students.
- Enrollment and Completion of one (1) UIW Seminar Course (e.g. Sensation/Perception or Action/Decision Making, etc.)
- Creation/Management of normative database for UIWRSO use and retention (e.g. consolidate sport-specific and skill-specific metrics to create expected norms and standard errors based on age, gender, performance level)
- Travel to United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Human Performance Lab for technical exchange and operational assessment refinement to be presented to UIWRSO faculty for Fellowship enhancement.
- Submission of all fellowship evaluation forms and activity logs.

FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

Sports Vision Training at UIWRSO

The fellow will spend approximately 40-50% of their time during the first six months providing care to athletes at the UIWRSO Sports and Vision Enhancement Service Clinic. Most patients seen at this clinic are collegiate athletes enrolled at UIW, however there is also opportunity to work with youth athletes throughout the year. Prior to working with athletes unsupervised the fellow will have to pass a competency exam proving mastery of all the equipment in the clinic. Innovative equipment includes: Senaptec Sensory Station, Senaptec Strobe Goggles, Dynavision, Eye Metrix, Makoto Arena, Vision Coach, SVT, Fit Lights, and other standard vision therapy equipment. The fellow will be responsible for the identification of sport specific visual demands and management of athletes in the clinic and will develop training programs to enhance their visual demands. Approximately 20-30% of the fellow's time will be spent in the Eye Institute managing patients referred to the vision therapy clinic. This opportunity will advance the fellow's identification and management of binocular vision disorders encountered in the general population. The vision therapy clinic also services patients in need of neurorehabilitation and TBI management so the fellow will also be responsible for these patients' care and rehabilitation programs. Additionally, the fellow will be allotted time to travel to USAFA Human Performance Lab for technical exchange and operational assessment refinement to be presented to UIWRSO faculty for Fellowship program enhancement.

Activities at Battlefield Airmen Training Group, Lackland AFB

Successful program completion will create a vision specialist familiar with United States Air Force (USAF) Human Performance Laboratory protocols, USAF Special Warfare Group visual standards and operational visual demands and the capability to enhance, enable and sustain peak visual performance in both the aerospace and operational communities.

Teaching and Scholarly Activities

The fellow will participate in the training of interns that rotate through the sports vision and vision therapy clinic after demonstrating competency in both clinics. This will include overseeing the evaluations and training techniques performed by interns and managing the follow-up care that they deliver. The fellow is required to write and submit at least one paper to a peer reviewed publication by the end of the fellowship. The fellow is required to submit one poster or paper abstract to a national conference during the fellowship time frame. The fellow is required to deliver one presentation at a local ATOPS meeting discussing an overview of the UIWRSO Sports Vision Fellowship experience. The fellow is required to complete at least one UIW seminar course. The fellow is also required to create and manage a normative database for UIWRSO use and retention. The fellow is required to present at least six case studies discussing patients and/or athletes encountered during their fellowship to UIW faculty and/or residents and students. Fellows are encouraged to participate in journal club, grand rounds, and seminar programs at the Rosenberg School of Optometry.

Employment Benefits

Consistent with rank or appointment

Housing and Utilities	Provided at no charge to the fellow
Health Insurance	Provided at no charge to the fellow
Paid Holidays	Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Holiday, Christmas Holiday, New Year’s Holiday
Continuing Education Leave	5 days paid leave
Paid Time Off	10 days paid annual leave
Sick Leave	5 days paid sick leave
Liability Insurance	Provided at no charge to the fellow

In addition, fellows 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 fellowship program.

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

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Fellowship Program does not participate in ORMatch. It is therefore necessary to file an application directly with the fellowship program coordinator through the Air Force.

Application Prerequisites:

- AFSC: 42E3
- RANK: Capt or Major with previous flight commander experience preferred
- Strong academic history sufficient to gain acceptance to a civilian/VA program
- Motivated to serve AF in clinical roles
- Agree to incur a 36-month active duty service commitment following completion of the program.

Selection Procedure

- The program coordinator and faculty review application materials and invite qualified applicants to an on-site interview. Candidates unable to travel to the site may be invited to interview by telephone.
- The program coordinator and faculty select the most promising candidates based upon their application portfolios and interview performance, and submit these candidates to the Director of Residency and Fellowship Programs at the Rosenberg School of Optometry for review.
- The program coordinator offers the fellowship position to the most promising candidates, in turn, until the position has been filled.
- Upon acceptance of the offer, the candidate is asked to sign a letter of intent to enroll in the fellowship program.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Candidates must earn the degree of Doctor of Optometry from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education prior to the starting date of the fellowship.
2. Successful completion of NBEO examinations.
3. Candidates must be eligible to be licensed as an optometrist in the State of Texas.
4. Candidates must be Air Force Optometrists.
5. The fellow will be selected from among candidates of whom if hired, can present evidence of legal right to live and work in the United States.

Non-discrimination

The UIWRSO and Lackland AFB Sports Vision Fellowship Program provides equal educational opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or sex.

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

For additional information about this fellowship opportunity, please contact:

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