

# Residency in Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation

## Optometry Center for Vision Therapy

Optometry Center for Vision Therapy (OCVT)  
6836 Bee Caves Rd, Ste. 100  
Austin, TX 78746



**Program Coordinator:** Briana Larson, O.D., F.C.O.V.D., F.A.A.O., F.N.O.R.A.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Program Mission

The mission of the Residency Program in Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation at OCVT is to yield expert clinicians and leaders in the field of vision therapy and rehabilitation through didactic knowledge, clinical experience, and concentrated practice management exposure. The resident will gain mastery of diagnosis and treatment of visual efficiency and processing deficits, neurological insult, and pediatric visual and ocular conditions.

Upon successful completion, the resident will have the competencies to serve as an expert and a leader in the field of vision therapy and rehabilitation. The resident will also acquire the skill set to efficiently operate a private vision therapy, pediatric optometry and neuro-optometry specialty practice.

### Program Goals

1. **Goal:** Enhance the resident's clinical skills in pediatric optometry, vision therapy, and neuro-optometric rehabilitation.

#### Objectives:

1. The resident will efficiently develop diagnosis differentials and diagnosis plans based on history intake.
2. The resident will appropriately analyze diagnosis and patient needs to determine treatment plans, including optical and disease management components, therapeutic lens and prism application, vision therapy rehabilitation programs, and interdisciplinary management with other professionals.
3. The resident will be proficient in successful care of individuals with amblyopia and strabismus.
4. The resident will gain clinical confidence in assessment and treatment of visual and ocular disease conditions in infants, toddlers, and school-aged children.
5. The resident will gain mastery of skills needed to prescribe initial vision therapy rehabilitation plans and monitor and manage progress throughout the course of the recommended treatment plan.

2. **Goal:** Enhance the resident's assessment and treatment management of individuals with learning-related vision disorders.

**Objectives:**

1. The resident will proficiently assess, diagnose, and manage visual-processing disorders.
  2. The resident will advance their knowledge and experience of the optometric management of individuals with Dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, and developmental delays.
  3. The resident will learn how to effectively collaborate with parents and educators regarding classroom and testing accommodations including applicable recommendations to educational plans.
  4. The resident will effectively communicate with parents and educators clinical information and the benefits of a visual-learning based treatment program for children with learning-related vision disorders.
  5. Expand the resident's mode of assessment and treatment management to include a model of vision and learning.
3. **Goal:** Expand the resident's experience and clinical confidence with assessment and optometric management of children with special needs, including children with Autism spectrum disorders.

**Objectives:**

1. The resident will proficiently assess, diagnose and prescribe treatment for children with special needs and address functional aspects of vision enhancement, including prescribing therapeutic lenses and prisms.
  2. The resident will participate and present at seminars to advocacy groups of children with special needs.
4. **Goal:** Expand the resident's knowledge in managing patients with neurological insult.

**Objectives:**

1. The resident will proficiently assess, diagnose and prescribe neuro-optometric rehabilitation plans for patients with acquired brain injury that result from trauma, cerebral vascular accident, tumor, and post-surgical complications.
  2. The resident will provide multi-level treatment plans and develop an interdisciplinary care approach to the management of patients with neurological insult.
  3. Enhance the resident's knowledge and clinical skills in management of low vision patients.
5. **Goal:** Develop the resident's professional acumen and practice management skills in a vision therapy and rehabilitation specialty practice.

**Objectives:**

1. The resident will proficiently prepare initial evaluation reports, progress reports, and referral letters.
  2. The resident will learn and execute diagnostic and procedural billing for vision therapy based services.
  3. The resident will actively participate in internal and external OCVT events.
  4. The resident will receive structured performance reviews and actively engage in goal setting areas of professional growth.
  5. The resident will actively participate in weekly team meetings and vision therapy team meetings.
  6. The resident will be afforded public speaking opportunities internally at OCVT and externally in the community.
  7. The resident will participate in OCVT’s practice development initiatives.
  8. The resident will be exposed to OCVT’s operational and strategic methodologies.
  9. The resident will participate in OCVT’s community outreach and philanthropy initiatives.
  10. The resident will engage in short and long term career path planning with OCVT’s leadership team.
6. **Goal:** Enhance the resident’s scholarly and didactic activity.

**Objectives:**

1. The resident will have assigned related peer-reviewed journal article reviews, discussions and internal presentations.
2. The resident will have the opportunity and be encouraged to attend annual conferences held by the major national organizations in the related field of vision therapy and rehabilitation.
3. The resident will be mentored and encouraged to pursue fellowship/s through major national organizations in the related field of vision therapy and neuro-optometric rehabilitation.
4. The resident will develop and present lectures on related topics and cases to OCVT’s vision therapy team.
5. The resident will attend lectures presented on related topics and cases by OCVT’s vision therapy team.
6. The resident will receive support and direction to successfully complete a publishable-quality manuscript.

**Program Details**

<b>Program Length</b>	12 months (53 weeks)
<b>Start Date</b>	July 5th
<b>Positions</b>	3
<b>Compensation</b>	\$48,000
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	40 hrs (there are no on-call responsibilities)

<b>Accreditation Status</b>	ACOE Accredited
<b>Application Deadline</b>	February 1
<b>ORMatch Matching Service</b>	Yes

### **Program Description**

This residency program is based at two locations of the Optometry Center for Vision Therapy (OCVT) in Austin and San Antonio, Texas. OCVT is a specialty practice exclusively dedicated to vision therapy, neuro-optometric rehabilitation and pediatric optometry. 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 Optometry Center for Vision Therapy. The resident will actively participate in team meetings/presentations and journal clubs to expand further their knowledge base. The resident will also execute internal and external presentations on related topics and receive continuing education seminars from other professionals collaborating in care with OCVT. The resident will join the OCVT team at international continuing educational conferences in the field.

### **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:

- Successful completion of all of the residency program’s goals and objectives
- Completed one paper of publishable quality (i.e. research paper, literature review, case report)
- Deliver four presentations on an optometric topic
- Submission of all residency evaluation forms (activity logs, exit evaluations)
- Successful completion of NBEO Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3

## **RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE**

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

The resident will spend approximately 80% of their time providing care to patients at the Optometry Center for Vision Therapy. 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.

### **Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation**

A sizable number of patients presenting to the Optometry Center for Vision Therapy are seen for optometric complications of neurologic insult, including head trauma and stroke. These patients require specific evaluation for visual, accommodative, binocular, oculomotor, processing and integrative deficits arising from their neurologic insult and development of a management plan for rehabilitation. Residents

will develop skills in neuro-optometric rehabilitation using optical and non-optical therapy of patients with oculovisual complications of neurological insult.

**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 four presentations 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. Residents participate in journal club, grand rounds, and seminar programs at OCVT and the Rosenberg School of Optometry.

**Employment Benefits**

The resident receives employment benefits as an employee of the OCVT.

<b>Stipend</b>	Total stipend of \$39,000, less any federal/state required payroll deductions, will be paid by OCVT.
<b>Health Insurance</b>	\$250 Monthly Stipend for insurance.
<b>Holidays</b>	The resident is allotted the same paid holidays allowed for the regular staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Year’s Day</li> <li>• Memorial Day</li> <li>• Independence Day</li> <li>• Labor Day</li> <li>• Thanksgiving Day</li> <li>• Christmas Day</li> </ul> Additional paid time off for holidays may be extended on the sole discretion of the Executive Leadership Team.
<b>Continuing Education Leave</b>	64:00 hours of paid leave to attend professional meetings and/or conferences are allowed once approved by the Clinical Director. OCVT will provide reimbursements for one continuing education conference to be selected by the Clinical Director (the resident is welcome to share suggestions and requests to be considered), including travel and accommodations as managed, booked, and pre-approved by the Clinical Director.
<b>Paid Time Off (PTO)</b>	The resident will be provided with 80:00 hours of paid time off. Any time off past 80:00 hours will be unpaid leave.
<b>Liability Insurance</b>	The resident is provided with professional liability insurance by OCVT (Est. \$800) and workers compensation insurance (Est. \$650).

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.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The OCVT Residency Program participates in ORMatch. It is therefore necessary to both register with ORMatch and to file an application directly with the OCVT residency program coordinator. Copies of the application form and more information can be obtained by contacting the residency program coordinator.

### Selection Procedure

- The program coordinator and faculty decide which candidates to rank for the match and determine the sequential ranking of those candidates based on the application materials, the interview, and input from previous instructors.
- Final candidate selections are reviewed by the Residency Director and the approved list is submitted to ORMatch by the Residency Coordinator.
- ORMatch contacts the program with the results of the match.
- The program coordinator and the program director contact the matched candidates and confirm their intent to enroll in the residency 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 residency.
2. Successful completion of NBEO examinations.
3. Candidates must be eligible to be licensed as a therapeutic optometrist in the State of Texas.
4. The resident 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 OCVT Residency 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 residency opportunity, please contact:

**Briana Larson, O.D., F.C.O.V.D., F.A.A.O., F.N.O.R.A.**

**Residency Program Coordinator**

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