

Residency in Ocular Disease

VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System

Veterans Health Administration
901 East Hackberry Avenue
McAllen, Texas 78503

Program Coordinator: Michael Wingard, OD, FAAO



GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Mission

The mission of the Residency in Ocular Disease at the VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System is to provide advanced clinical training in diagnosis and management of ocular and systemic disease as part of an interdisciplinary team caring for a population with high prevalence of morbidities. Successful completion of the program will allow graduates to pursue professional opportunities requiring a high level of clinical expertise, such as the Veterans Administration and eyecare referral centers.

Program Goals

The goals of the program include the following:

- Strengthen the resident's clinical skills and confidence working with patients presenting with a variety of ocular and systemic disease conditions as part of an interdisciplinary team
- Develop the resident's optometric knowledge in clinical diagnosis and management.
- Introduce the resident to interdisciplinary healthcare administration.
- Engage the resident in scholarly activities

Program Length	12 months (53 weeks)
Start Date	July 1
Positions	1
Compensation	\$43,924
Hours Per Week	40
Accreditation Status	Accredited
Application Deadline	January 30
ORMatch Matching Service	Yes

Program Description

The program will provide advanced clinical competence in the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of patients in a population with high prevalence of acute and chronic ocular disease conditions such as diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataract. The program will emphasize state of the art technologies including optical coherence tomography, automated perimetry, and fundus/anterior segment photography in evaluation and management of patients. The program will expose the resident to all aspects of ocular disease management including medical, surgical, and

rehabilitative treatment options, and the interdisciplinary team approach to management of chronic systemic disease. Additionally, the resident will also have the unique opportunity to gain healthcare administration experience with our leadership team. The resident will be fully integrated into direct patient centered, evidence-based operations of the eye clinic and the health care system.

Educational Opportunities

Direct supervised patient care experiences in primary care and ocular disease. Participation in seminars and journal clubs with attending physicians and externs. The resident is encouraged to attend monthly continuing education events of the Rio Grande Valley Optometric Society and national optometric conferences. In addition, close interaction with clinical optometry and ophthalmology faculty provides the resident with enhanced clinical skills and knowledge base. Moreover, there is the opportunity for participation in optometric research, if the resident desires.

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. Candidates must have passed the NBEO Part I and have taken Part II by the application deadline. The selected candidate must have passed Part II and be scheduled to sit for Part III.
3. Candidates must be eligible to be licensed as a therapeutic optometrist in a U.S. state, District of Columbia, commonwealth or territory.
4. Candidates must receive full unrestricted clinical privileges at the VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System.

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 a healthcare topic
- Submission of all residency evaluation forms (activity logs, exit evaluations)
- The resident is qualified to see patients independently under the Rosenberg School of Optometry Resident Supervision policy
- Successful completion of NBEO Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3

RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE

Scholarly Activities

The resident is also required to write at least one paper of publishable quality by the end of the residency. Residents participate in journal club, grand rounds, and seminar programs. Opportunities to participate in research studies exist for those residents with an interest in clinical research.

Lecturing and Teaching

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

Clinical Privileges

Residents must apply for and be granted clinical privileges by the UIW Eye Institute to be able to participate in the residency program. Residents are required to be supervised as per the Rosenberg School of Optometry Resident Supervision Policy. The Residency Program Supervisor must evaluate and monitor the resident's level of training, which determines the resident's privileges.

Continuing Education

Residents are able to attend continuing education sponsored by the Rosenberg School of Optometry at no charge for credit hours. The resident is encouraged to attend at least one major national educational meeting during the year. A \$1000 travel stipend is available to the resident to help defray the cost of attending a national educational conference.

WORKSITE

The Eye Clinic of the VA Health Care Center, Harlingen, has a 4600 square foot capacity, comprising 10 complete examination lanes, 2 ancillary testing rooms, a laser room, and an educational conference room. The facility currently has 2 optometrists, 2 ophthalmologists, 4 technicians, a visual impairment specialist, an optician and admin staff. The clinic has Cirrus OCT, Humphrey field, ultrasound, fundus camera, topographer, Nd-YAG and Argon lasers. Optometrists typically have 3,000 encounters/year. The ophthalmologists perform outpatient surgery—including laser-assisted cataract surgery—in the facility's operating rooms.

Employment Benefits

The resident receives employment benefits through the Veterans Health Administration. These include health insurance, professional liability insurance, paid vacation, paid holidays and paid sick leave. Residents receive 80 hours paid vacation leave and 40 hours paid sick leave per year. There are also 10 paid holidays annually. In addition, residents receive 5 days of professional leave.

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

For additional information about this residency opportunity, please contact:

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