

# Residency in Ocular Disease

## Doris Miller Veteran Affairs Medical Center

Doris Miller VAMC  
4800 Memorial Drive  
Building 91, c/o Eye Clinic  
Waco, TX 76711



**Program Coordinator:** Erika M. Jones, OD, FAAO, Board Certified in Medical Optometry by ABCMO

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Program Mission

The mission of the Residency in Ocular Disease Optometry at the Doris Miller Veteran Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Waco, Texas is to provide advanced clinical training in a context of service to our nation's Veterans with the emphasis on the management of patients with ocular disease as part of a multidisciplinary team. This allows the resident upon completion of the program to pursue professional opportunities which require a high level of clinical expertise.

#### Program Goals

The goals of the program include the following:

- Strengthen the resident's clinical skills to gain confidence in working with patients with ocular disease as part of a multidisciplinary team while providing patient-centered care.
- Provide the resident with experience in clinical and didactic teaching as well as the opportunity to integrate knowledge into patient care through evidence-based clinical decision making.
- Engage the resident in scholarly activities such as lectures, presentations, publications, posters and research.

<b>Program Length</b>	12 months
<b>Start Date</b>	<b>The first VA pay period closest to July 1</b>
<b>Positions</b>	2
<b>Compensation</b>	~\$44,000 plus benefits (final salary is per VA HR)
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	40 hrs (no on call or weekend hours)
<b>Accreditation</b>	<b>Yes</b> , ACOE Accredited ( <a href="mailto:accredit@theacoe.org">accredit@theacoe.org</a> )
<b>Application Deadline</b>	See ORMatch ( <a href="https://natmatch.com/ormatch/">https://natmatch.com/ormatch/</a> )
<b>ORMatch Matching Service</b>	Yes, Required to Apply via ORMatch

Contact the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) at [accredit@theacoe.org](mailto:accredit@theacoe.org) or 1-800-365-2219. Click [here](#) for more information about accreditation or optometric residency programs.

### **Program Description**

The resident will provide optometric care to patients with a diverse range of ocular and neurologic conditions in the Doris Miller VAMC Eye Clinic. The resident will also be exposed to low vision rehabilitation at the Blind Rehabilitation Center on our campus as well as be exposed to the Ophthalmology subspecialties at our parent hospital, Olin E. Teague Veteran Affairs Hospital in Temple, Texas. In the Doris Miller VAMC Eye Clinic, the resident will receive training in the diagnosis and management of a wide variety of ocular disease conditions, including glaucoma, retinal disease, and anterior segment disorders.

### **Educational Opportunities**

The resident will engage in directly supervised patient care experiences in the Eye clinics of the Doris Miller VAMC Eye Clinic and the Olin E. Teague VA hospital. The resident shall participate in Grand Rounds, seminars, and journal clubs. The resident is encouraged to attend continuing education events in the San Antonio area and national optometric conferences. In addition, close interaction with clinical faculty in varied clinical settings provides the resident with enhanced clinical skills and knowledge base.

### **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:

- Successfully complete all the residency program's goals and objectives
- Complete one paper of publishable quality (research paper, literature review, case report)
- Deliver one presentation on an optometric topic
- Submit all residency evaluation forms (activity logs, exit evaluations, reviews)
- Successfully Complete NBEO Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3

## **RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE**

### **Ocular Disease Diagnosis and Management**

Approximately 80% of the resident's time will be spent in the Eye Clinic of the Doris Miller VAMC. Here the resident will provide comprehensive eye care to a large and diverse population of patients with a high prevalence of ocular and systemic disease. By the conclusion of the residency program the resident will be eligible to sit for the Advanced Competency in Medical Optometry boards examination given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

### **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. Residents participate in journal club, grand rounds, and seminar programs at the VA hospital and the Rosenberg School of Optometry. The resident will also participate in the education of optometry externs at the VA Hospital.

## **WORKSITE**

### **Employment Environment**

The resident will spend the majority of their time at the Doris Miller VAMC in Waco, Texas as part of the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System (CTVHCS). The Optometry Resident will provide Medical Optometric care with a focus on Ocular Disease management to scheduled and walk in patients Monday through Friday from 0730-1600.

Ambulatory care programs in CTVHCS provide primary care services to eligible veterans in 32 counties throughout Central Texas, including a rural catchment area extending 100 or more miles from Waco. The hospital also consists of a 100-bed community living center and approximately 40 rehabilitation beds. The rehabilitation beds are used by various programs: Wounded Warrior program, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, blind rehabilitation, PTSD rehabilitation, suicide recovery rehabilitation, and mental health inpatient stays.

### **Employment Benefits**

The resident receives employment benefits as an employee of the Department of Veteran Affairs. These include health insurance, life insurance, professional liability protection, paid vacation, paid holidays and paid sick leave.

Leave benefits consist of thirteen days of annual leave and thirteen days of sick leave. Any unused annual leave at the end of the training year will be issued back to the residency as earned income.

Residents are also provided eleven federal holidays during the residency year.  
(<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/federal-holidays/>)

Residents are eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program  
(<https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/>).

The Federal Tort Claims Act provides the resident with professional liability protection while providing patient care as a component of the residency.

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 residency program.

Residents can attend continuing education sponsored by the Rosenberg School of Optometry and the Veterans Health Administration at no charge for credit hours and are provided time to do so.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The Doris Miller Optometry Residency Program participates in ORMatch (<https://natmatch.com/ormatch/>) . It is necessary to register with ORMatch and participate in their system to file a complete application with the Doris Miller VAMC residency program coordinator.

**Selection Procedure Details can be found here: <https://natmatch.com/ormatch/overview.html>**

- Register for the Match
- Apply to and Interview with the Program
- Submit your rank order list of preferred placements
- The matching algorithm is run
- Applicants receive their result
- Post Match Process (if applicable)

### Eligibility Criteria for Completion of the Program

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 parts 1, 2, and 3 of the NBEO examinations.
3. Candidates must be eligible to be licensed as a therapeutic optometrist in the State of Texas.
4. Candidates must be a US citizen.

### Equal Employment Opportunity

The Doris Miller VAMC Optometry Residency Program provides equal educational and employment opportunity in compliance with the laws, regulations, policies and guidance that prohibit discrimination in the Federal workplace based on an individuals race, color, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity), national origin, religion, age (40 and over), disability, genetic information, and/or reprisal.

## PLEASE EMAIL WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

For additional information about this residency opportunity, please contact:

### Program Coordinator:

**Erika M. Jones, OD, FAAO, ABCMO**

Doris Miller VAMC  
4800 Memorial Drive  
Building 91, c/o Eye Clinic  
Waco, TX 76711  
[erika.jones10@va.gov](mailto:erika.jones10@va.gov)  
254-297-3000 x55983