

General Information

Residency Program Supervisors

Mark A. Williams, O.D.
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Duration of Agreement

July 1 through June 30

Number of Positions

Three (3) Residency Positions available each year

Annual Salary

Periodically adjusted by the Office of Academic Affairs VHA. Please contact residency coordinator for current salary information.

Hours

Expected range of hours of attendance in a typical week of activities is 40-60 hours. The Eye Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Leave

Residents earn thirteen days paid annual leave and thirteen days paid sick leave per year. There are also ten paid Federal Holidays annually.

Professional Liability Protection

The U.S. Government accepts responsibility for the actions of its employees during exercise of official duties. VA residents are protected by the Federal Government in instances of alleged malpractice or negligence resulting from performance of their duties in or for the Veterans Health Administration.

Health Insurance Benefits

The VA provides full medical health insurance to residents.

Certificate of Completion

A certificate of completion will be awarded to the resident upon satisfactory completion of residency requirements.

Program Goals:

1. Enhance the primary eye and vision care assessment and the management skills of the residents through significant broad-based clinical experience.
2. Foster the residents' active participation as members of an interdisciplinary health care team.
3. Develop the residents' skills as educators.
4. Encourage the residents' pursuit of scholarly activities.
5. The sponsor and affiliate will provide an excellent facility and administrative support to maximize the residents' environment for learning.



Residency Experience

Scholarly Activities

Residents are expected to author a manuscript suitable for publication and to present this work at the annual Northwest Optometric Residents' Conference.

Continuing Education

Residents are entitled to attend continuing education sponsored by the Pacific University College of Optometry and the Department of Veterans Affairs at no charge for credit hours. A nominal fee for printed materials and meals will be required for some Pacific University functions. Authorized absence from clinical responsibilities can be granted for attendance at educational conferences.

Lecturing

Residents will present a lecture at the annual Northwest Optometric Residents' Conference prior to the completion of the residency program. Residents will also be expected to give numerous presentations to the eye clinic and interdisciplinary staff throughout the year. Opportunities for participation as a lecturer at Pacific University also exist.

Clinical Privileges

The Optometry Residency Program Supervisor must submit a Resident Credentials Verification Letter to the Chief Executive Officer of the medical center, verifying that the residents are properly credentialed. Residents are not directly privileged, but their scope of practice is equivalent to the clinical privileges of the Optometry Staff. The Optometry Staff clinical privileges at the Portland VAMC are equivalent to the scope of practice permitted by Oregon State Law. These privileges include the use of all topical ophthalmic pharmaceutical agents. Residents are required to be supervised as per VA Chapter 26.

Performance Evaluations

The residents will receive written evaluations from the Residency Program Director on a quarterly basis. The residents will also have the opportunity to evaluate the residency program on a quarterly basis.

Workspace

The residents' primary workspace will be the Portland VA Medical Center's Portland Division Hospital. The residents also routinely work in clinics at the Vancouver Division Hospital and the Pacific University College of Optometry.

Clinical Facilities

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Portland, Oregon, is a modern facility composed of three divisions, which offer care to over 350,000 veterans in Oregon and Southwestern Washington. The clinical facilities are spacious and well equipped to serve both the patients' needs and the residency program's educational objectives.

The Eye Care Team's clinical facility at the Portland VA Medical Center's Portland Division Hospital currently has sixteen comprehensive examination rooms, a low vision examination room, two visual field rooms, a laser room, a minor surgical procedure room, a photography and darkroom, and an ophthalmic dispensary.

Additional Information

Low Vision/VIST/BROS Program

Legally blind and visually impaired patients receive comprehensive examinations in our Low Vision Clinic as a component of their rehabilitation program. The residents work with an interdisciplinary rehabilitation team consisting of Optometry, the Visual Impairment Service Team (VIST) Coordinator, and the Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS).

Ocular Photography

A full-time ophthalmic photographer staffs the ophthalmic photography clinic at the Portland VAMC. Services include digital anterior segment and posterior segment ophthalmic imaging and digital retinal fluorescein angiography.

Library and Research Resources

Residents are provided access to the libraries and computer databases of Pacific University, Oregon Health Sciences University and the VAMC. Access to the extensive ophthalmic library at the Casey Eye Institute is also available.

Computer Access

Each eye exam room has access to the VA's computer network including the electronic medical record and the internet. Each resident is also provided a computer with VA network and internet access within our Eye Care Team consultation room. All interdisciplinary patient records are accessible through the computerized patient record system (CPRS).

Contact Lens Clinic

The Contact Lens Clinic provides patients with a variety of cosmetic and therapeutic contact lens services including keratoconic, aphakic, post-graft, and prosthetic lens fitting. The Cornea and Contact Lens Resident from Pacific University College of Optometry is a consultant for this clinic one day per week.

Ocular Prosthetics Services

The Portland VAMC has a full-time ocularist who makes custom prosthetic eyes for veteran patients. Residents have the opportunity to spend a few days with the ocularist and observe the procedures for making and caring for a prosthetic eye.

Weekly Optometric Seminar

Each week, the residents, interns, residency supervisor, and consulting and attending doctors meet for a two hour optometric seminar. Three to four presentations on optometrically relevant topics are given and discussed by all in attendance. Guest speakers from other disciplines also speak on topics relevant to the clinical eye care field.

General Medicine Resident Instruction in Eye Care

Interdisciplinary working relationships between Optometry and General Medicine are enhanced with first-year General Medicine Residents rotating through the Optometry Clinics one-half day per week for clinical instruction in eye care.

Ophthalmology Section

The Ophthalmology Section of the Portland VA Medical Center has a close working relationship with the Optometry Section. The Ophthalmology Section also has a residency program. This program is affiliated with Oregon Health Sciences University's (OHSU) Casey Eye Institute. Residents in each year of the OHSU residency program rotate through the integrated Portland VA Medical Center Eye Clinic. Subspecialists in uveitis, retina, vitreoretinal surgery, glaucoma, oculoplastics, and cornea serve as consultants in the Eye Care Team.

Administrative and Independent Study Time

Each resident is scheduled one-half day each week for administrative time. This time is intended to be used for research, review of charts, and independent study.

Optical Services

A full-time dispensing optician coordinates ophthalmic materials-related services at the Portland VA Medical Center Portland Division Eye Clinic.

Support Staff

Three medical clerks and a Clinical Facilitator provide support services for the Eye Care Team.

Week in the Life of A Resident

The one year residency consists of three rotations of four months each.

Rotation #1

M Southeast Health Center
T Portland VA Eye Clinic
W Clinical Seminar 8-10 AM
Th Portland VA Eye Clinic
F Portland VA Eye Clinic - AM
Administrative Time - PM

Rotation #2

M Portland VA Eye Clinic
T Vancouver VA Eye Clinic
W Clinical Seminar 8-10 AM
Portland VA Eye Clinic - AM
Administrative Time - PM
Th Vancouver VA Eye Clinic
F Portland VA Eye Clinic - AM

Rotation #3

M Portland VA Eye Clinic - AM
Administrative Time - PM
T Portland VA Eye Clinic
W Clinical Seminar 8-10 AM
Low Vision Clinic
Th Low Vision Clinic
F Portland VA Eye Clinic

The Vancouver Division Hospital has four comprehensive exam rooms. The facilities are well equipped, and the instrumentation is in good working condition.

Patient Population

The patient population at the VA Medical Center is 95% male with a mean age of 65. Patients present to the eye clinic with a wide variety of challenging ocular, visual, and systemic health problems. This patient experience is supplemented with clinical rotations at the Southeast Eye Center, where the patient population includes pediatric and young adult patients.

Vancouver Clinic

Residents have the opportunity to work at the small satellite eye clinic in the Vancouver Division of the Portland VA Medical Center in Vancouver, Washington. The residents are responsible for performing primary eye and vision care services at this location. The patient base at this clinic includes outpatients, as well as inpatients from the Nursing Home, Chronic Rehabilitation Unit, and the Chemical Addiction Rehabilitation Service.

Southeast Eye Center

The Southeast Eye Center is one of the teaching clinics for Pacific University College of Optometry and the resident serves as consulting and attending doctor for fourth year student interns. The patient population is largely non-English speaking. Patients from the Multnomah County Women Infant and Children's (WIC) Program provide experience in the area of pediatric optometry.

On-Call Duty

On a rotating basis, the residents will be assigned as the primary on-call provider after hours for the clinics of Pacific University College of Optometry. The on-call duty is shared with the Pacific University Cornea and Contact Lens Resident and Teaching Fellows.

Portland Living

Housing & Cost of Living

One bedroom apartments in the Portland metropolitan area average \$500 to \$600 per month, and two bedroom apartments average \$600-\$800 per month. Month-to-month lease options are commonly available in the Portland area.

Commuting & Parking

A limited number of parking passes are available for the Eye Clinic to share. Parking at the Portland VA Medical Center is scarce and employees are encouraged to use public transportation. Tri-Met is the regional public transportation system, which includes buses and light-rail trains.

Recreation

Portland has been described as the “city of books, beer, bikes and blooms,” and offers numerous activities involving all of these aspects. Outdoor adventures abound with Mt. Hood, the Oregon Coast, forests, and several rivers within 60 miles from the city limits. Portland’s events and festivals provide new forms of entertainment throughout the year.

Eligibility Criteria

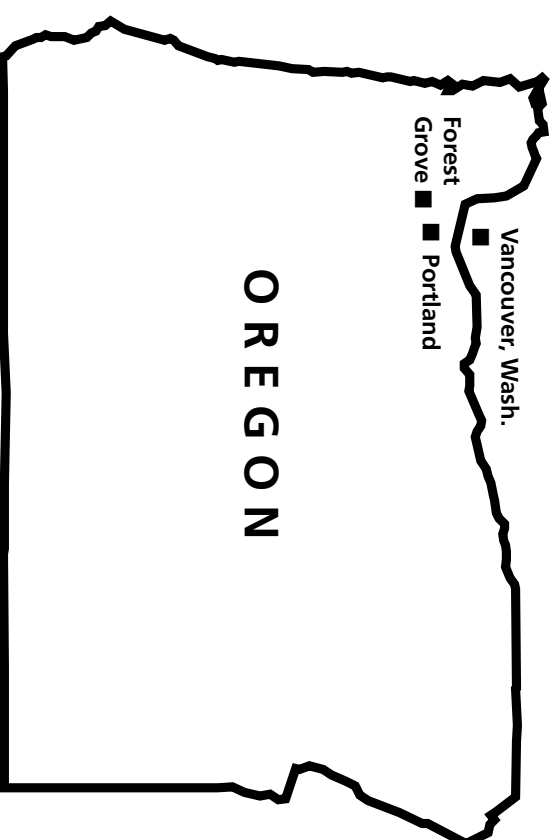
1. Candidates must earn the degree of Doctor of Optometry from a school or college of Optometry accredited by the Council on Optometric Education prior to the starting date of the residency program.
2. Candidates must have successfully completed Part I of the National Board

of Examiners in Optometry, and they must have either successfully completed Part II or be scheduled to take Part II prior to the starting date of the residency program.

3. Candidates must be eligible to be licensed as an optometrist in a state, territory, or commonwealth of the United States, or the District of Columbia.
4. It is the policy of the Portland VAMC to provide equal opportunity in employment for all qualified persons; to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability; to ensure that the workforce profile will clearly reflect a meaningful distribution and utilization of minority and female employees; and to provide for the prompt, fair and impartial consideration and disposition of complaints involving issues of discrimination on ground of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability, or reprisal.
5. Only United States citizens are eligible candidates for funded residency positions sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
6. Candidates must apply to this residency program through the Optometric Residency Matching Services (ORMS), Inc. www.optometryresident.org

For More Information

For additional information about these residency opportunities, please contact: Mark A. Williams, O.D. Residency Program Coordinator, Portland VAMC, P.O.Box 1034/P-5-EYE, Portland, Oregon 97207, 503-220-8262 ext. 51104 or E-mail at mark.williams3@med.va.gov.



Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Optometric Residency Program
P.O. Box 1034/P-5-EYE
Portland, OR 97207

PORTLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER
PORTLAND, OREGON

Primary Eye Care Department of Veterans Affairs



Optometric Residency Program

SPONSOR: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, PORTLAND, OREGON
AFFILIATE: PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, FOREST GROVE, OREGON

MISSION: This Primary Eye Care Optometric Residency is a one year post-doctoral training program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Portland, Oregon, and is affiliated with Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon. This residency program offers qualified doctors of optometry an educational opportunity for exceptional and broad-based development as an optometric practitioner. The educational experience will concentrate on the delivery of primary eye and vision care to a predominantly outpatient veteran population from Oregon and Southwest Washington, and the medically indigent population of Portland. Primary eye and vision care experiences include, but are not limited to, ocular disease management, binocular vision, contact lenses, and low vision. Compassionate and individualized patient care is expected. An interdisciplinary approach to the delivery of health care will be cultivated, and full utilization of the medical center’s and university’s resources will be encouraged. Residents will also develop clinical didactic teaching skills.