

Low Vision Residency Curriculum

CLINICAL CURRICULUM:

The clinical curriculum is designed with the resident first providing direct patient care to establish basic clinical competence in low vision patient encounters. Beginning approximately in January of the academic year, the resident begins developing clinical teaching skills by participating in the education and supervision of fourth year student interns. This may happen a little earlier or later in the year, at the discretion of the program supervisor.

The Low Vision clinic is part of the Vision Rehabilitation Service of the University Eye Center, which serves a diverse patient population, affording the resident experience in seeing patients with a range of visual needs and visual capabilities. In addition to the Low Vision clinic, the service also includes the Vision Therapy clinic, the Raymond J. Greenwald Head Trauma Unit, the Learning Disabilities Unit and the Sports and Vision Performance Center.

The resident rotates through the following services at the University Eye Center (UEC) at the SUNY College of Optometry:

Vision Rehabilitation: Low Vision and Head Trauma clinics

Primary Care Service: Adult and Pediatric Primary Care clinics

Advanced Care Service: typically includes Retina, Glaucoma, and Specialty Contact Lens clinics

The resident should have minimum 300 Vision Rehabilitation/Clinical Low Vision patient encounters. Successful completion of the clinical curriculum is based upon meeting the minimum number of patient encounters as listed below:

Diagnosis	Minimum
Macular Degeneration	100
Cataract	50
Glaucoma	50
Diabetic Retinopathy	25
Retinitis Pigmentosa	5
Albinism	5
Children (under 18 years)	5

The resident will provide comprehensive eye examinations with an emphasis on providing optical rehabilitation through low vision devices. The resident will assess the patient's functional goals, and will perform the appropriate functional assessment to determine optimum optical correction for the patient's goals. The resident will develop management plans to address visual acuity loss, visual field loss, reduced contrast sensitivity and glare control.

Advanced Competencies were developed by the Low Vision Educator's Special Interest Group (see appendix) and were accepted by The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) in fall of 2017. These are guidelines that provide a scaffolding for continued education in this area beyond graduation from a school or college of optometry, such as a residency program. The resident is evaluated quarterly, and progress toward program goals and objectives will be reviewed. This review will include progress toward meeting the Advanced Competencies.

DIDACTIC CURRICULUM:

Successful completion of the educational aspect of the program involves participation in seminars on topics related to low vision, in addition to the SUNY Residency Friday Program requirements. These seminars are given by SUNY Faculty and selected guest lecturers. The seminars take place in the summer quarter and can extend into the fall

quarter as needed. Typical topics include: examination procedures, low vision devices, telescope fitting, remediation of visual field defects, working with other professionals.

The resident is strongly encouraged to attend monthly Grand Rounds at SUNY, held on the first Tuesday morning of each month.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM:

The Friday Program offers specific programs to develop the resident's presentation skills, writing skills, and teaching skills. The resident has the following mandatory requirements: 1) Minor presentation, 2) Major presentation, and 3) Publishable quality paper. This portion of the curriculum ensures that the resident has the skills and resources to continue to contribute to the profession of optometry as leaders and experts in low vision rehabilitation.

To increase the resident's comfort and to encourage the resident to participate in scholarly activities, the resident is strongly encouraged to submit abstracts for poster/presentation for optometric conferences (AAO, SECO, AOA). Although not required, opportunities to participate in clinical research are available to any resident who is interested.

There are required didactic and clinical teaching opportunities for the resident. The resident is expected to serve as a teaching assistant in the third year Low Vision Lab course during the spring semester. In addition, the resident serves as a clinical instructor/supervisor in the low vision service. These responsibilities are monitored and increased during the year-long program.