

**EYECARE ASSOCIATES, PC RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN
VISION THERAPY AND REHABILITATION CURRICULUM**

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INTRODUCTION

EyeCare Associates, PC is proud to offer a private practice residency program in collaboration with SUNY Optometry. The practice offers 4 locations with emphasis on behavioral vision care, vision therapy and rehabilitation within a primary practice setting that includes contact lenses, ocular disease and optical experience.

PROGRAM MISSION:

The residency program will expand awareness, accessibility and advanced competency in the areas of vision therapy and rehabilitation in a private practice setting. The resident will become proficient in the areas of behavioral and pediatric optometric care; vision enhancement and sports vision; with patient encounters including contact lens and ocular disease through a residency program.

CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION:

Although this residency program encompasses both primary and advanced vision care, the emphasis is on the diagnosis and treatment of binocular, accommodative, oculomotor, and visual perceptual disorders. There are three main components of this curriculum that are emphasized throughout the year:

- **CLINICAL CURRICULUM:** The goal of this part of the curriculum is to ensure the resident has the basic and advanced clinical knowledge base and skills to diagnose and manage all clinical vision therapy cases.
- **DIDACTIC CURRICULUM:** The goal of this part of the curriculum is to provide the resident with small group seminar environments to discuss advanced topics in vision therapy/rehabilitation and to prepare the residents to competently participate in scholarly activities i.e., presentations, research, and papers.
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM:** The goal of this part of the curriculum has two components:
 1. To provide the resident with the experience and skills to clinically and/or didactically teach in multiple settings.
 2. To prepare the resident to work in the field upon completion of the residency, and to help network the resident with current leaders within the field of vision therapy/rehabilitation.

CLINICAL CURRICULUM:

The clinical curriculum is designed to first establish the basic clinical competency in the following types of encounters: vision therapy evaluation/treatment, vision perceptual evaluation/treatment, head trauma evaluation/treatment, pediatric exams, infant vision exams, and children with special needs exams. Beginning in the Fall quarter, the resident is given more clinical independence at the discretion of the program supervisor.

EyeCare Associates, PC serves a diverse patient population which results in a rich clinical experience especially in the areas of binocular vision and vision therapy. The resident will experience patients in both primary care and vision therapy under the guidance of Dr. Schulman and Dr. Grygier.

The core of the residency involves encounters in visual skills evaluations/therapy, visual perceptual evaluations/therapy, strabismus evaluations/therapy and pediatric/infant evaluations. Successful completion of the clinical curriculum is based upon meeting the minimum number of patient encounters as listed below:

Evaluations/Therapy:

General Skills Work-ups/Therapy	45/500
Perceptual Work-ups/Therapy	10/50
Strabismus/Amblyopia Work-ups/Therapy	25/100
Head Trauma Work-ups/Therapy	35/50

DIDACTIC CURRICULUM:

Successful completion of the educational aspect of the program involves attendance of the post-doctoral level seminars and lectures in addition to the SUNY Residency Friday Program requirements.

The resident is enrolled in lectures in 4 core areas: binocular vision and treatment of strabismus and amblyopia, acquired brain injury (ABI) rehabilitation, vision and learning and case-based learning. These courses and seminars emphasize the provision of advanced clinical care for these patient populations. The didactic curriculum provides experts from both inside and outside optometry to promote interdisciplinary care. Evidence-based optometry is emphasized through the didactic curriculum to foster scholarship, an enhanced appreciation for research, and a pursuit of lifelong learning. At the end of the year, the residents take the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) Written Examination part of the fellowship process. Although passing the examination is currently not required for successful completion of the residency program, this is considered a value-added perk of the residency program. The resident will be able to obtain fellowship status within COVD in a shortened time frame and enhance their professional development.

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 vision therapy.

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 (COVD, 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 will serve as the lead therapist at EyeCare Associates, PC and provide support and training to the other therapists. The resident will also be invited to Tuesday morning rehabilitation lectures at SUNY in the Summer and Fall.

The second goal of this curriculum involves preparing the resident to enter the field upon completion of the residency via networking with successful practitioners within the vision therapy/rehabilitation field. This goal is accomplished in the following ways:

- Friday Program - Specific programs are provided at the offices of successful private practitioners. The practitioner lectures on an advanced topic related to vision therapy/rehabilitation. This gives the resident the opportunity to visit practices that incorporate vision in a smaller group setting.
- Conference meeting attendance - The resident is encouraged to attend conferences to meet and network with vision therapy/rehabilitation doctors. Examples are COVD, AOA, SECO, NORA, CSO, Northeast Optometric Congress and Eastern States Optometric Congress (ESOC).
- Curriculum vitae review - The resident's curriculum vitae is reviewed to ensure that all pertinent information necessary when applying for specific positions is included and well presented.