

**Residency in Primary Eye Care/Vision Therapy and Low Vision Rehabilitation  
Northport V.A. Medical Center, Northport, NY  
Program Curriculum**

**Clinical**

- I. The resident's duties include direct care of patients in the various clinics within the Optometry Service. Residents rotate through the various clinics on a six-week basis, with the emphasis of each rotation based on a concentrated experience in the areas of Primary Care Optometry, Ocular Disease, Vision Therapy Rehabilitation and Low Vision Rehabilitation. The clinics within the service include Primary Care Optometry, Res Special (ocular disease clinic), Treatment Clinic (glaucoma clinic), Vision Therapy Work-up, Vision Therapy Treatment, Head Trauma Clinic, Center of Balance (vestibular clinic), Low Vision Clinic and the VICTORS Program
  
- II. Residents in the program typically have around 1,200 patient encounters over the course of the year. Minimum patient encounters have been established with regard to both exam type and class of pathology. While these minimums are typically exceeded, they are in place to maintain the quality of the resident's experience.
  
- III. The required minimum encounters based on exam type are as follows:

Primary Care Exams	750 encounters
Orthoptic Work-Up	35 encounters
Orthoptic Therapy/ Head Trauma	65 clinical hours
Low Vision Exams	70 encounters
  
- IV. The required minimum encounters based on class of pathology are as follows:

Diabetic retinopathy	50 encounters
Hypertensive retinopathy	50 encounters
Glaucoma suspect	75 encounters
Glaucoma	100 encounters
Cataract	100 encounters
Macular degeneration	75 encounters
Anterior segment pathology (blepharitis, dry eyes, corneal dystrophies, conjunctivitis, corneal ulcers, uveitis, etc.)	100 encounters
Posterior segment pathology (optic nerve disorders, vascular occlusions, systemic medication side-effects, retinal holes, lattice degeneration, etc.)	75 encounters

**Didactic**

- I. SUNY Friday Program (required attendance):
  - a. Workshop on Public Speaking
  - b. Writing Workshop (two sessions)
  - c. Practice Management Workshop
  - d. Friday Program Lectures and Workshops (35-hour minimum)
  
- II. Four mornings a week, residents and externs attend a one-hour morning seminar. The presentations are given by staff members, including the attendings, residents and externs.

The emphasis of the seminar varies each day and includes presentations on evidence-based medicine journal club, ocular disease, vision therapy, head trauma, low vision rehabilitation and practice management.

- III. To afford the resident the opportunity to fully appreciate the workings of the hospital and Optometry's role in this multidisciplinary setting, the resident will rotate through various clinics, which can include primary care (inpatient and outpatient), neurology, podiatry, vascular, occupational therapy, physical therapy, audiology and/or endocrinology. The rotations will consist of observation and some lecturing responsibilities. In addition, the resident will have the opportunity to visit sites off-campus, including a local laser vision correction and cataract surgery practice.
- IV. The resident is expected to attend professional meetings, both at the local and national levels.

#### **Scholarly Activities**

- I. Minor Presentation (20 minutes presentation) (Fall)
- II. Major Presentation (one-hour COPE approved lecture) (March)
- III. Publishable Quality Paper (June)
- IV. Present lectures within the Optometry Service, as well as to other staff and patient groups within the hospital.
- V. Submit abstracts for a paper or poster presentation at Residents' Day at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry.

#### **Teaching**

The resident will have the opportunity to precept fourth year externs from our three affiliated academic institutions during the winter and spring quarters.