

# RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

SUNY, College of Optometry has been conducting year-long optometric residencies since 1974, when the in-house Vision Therapy Residency was instituted. This was the first optometric residency program in the country and the third to receive accreditation status. Since that time, the residency programs affiliated with and at the College have expanded to include 19 programs. The residencies are clinically-based, patient care oriented programs. Along with the clinical component there are formal didactic activities which are an integral part of the residency program. All residency programs have the common goal of developing unique skills and competencies in one or more areas of optometric practice. Each program provides a body of knowledge that goes beyond that which is effectively covered in the professional optometric (O.D.) program.



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For SUNY residency programs, ACOE ([www.theacoe.org](http://www.theacoe.org) or email: [accredit@theacoe.org](mailto:accredit@theacoe.org)) is the accrediting body.

## Cornea & Contact Lens Residency at SUNY

Supervisor: D. Libassi, OD Email: [dlibassi@sunyopt.edu](mailto:dlibassi@sunyopt.edu)

Position available: 1

Mission Statement

The Cornea and Contact Lens residency, sponsored by the State University of New York State College of Optometry, provides qualified optometrists with advanced clinical education in contact lens patient care. The program will provide four main components; a clinical patient care component, a didactic component that provides advanced knowledge in contact lens care; a teaching component that allows for the acquisition of clinical and classroom educator skills; and research / scholarly activity portion. The resident is scheduled for direct patient care in the areas of anterior segment and specialty contact lens care. Upon completion of the program the resident will be qualified to provide high level patient care in the areas of contact lenses, corneal disease management, and pre / post corneal surgery. It is expected that the graduating resident should be clinically prepared to engage in collaborative contact lens research, conduct related scholarly activities, and function as an optometric educator in this field.

**Category: Cornea & Contact Lens (Emphasis: Anterior Segment and Ocular Disease)**

## Community Health Optometry/Ocular Disease Residency at NYC Health + Hospitals / Gotham Health East New York and SUNY

Supervisor: J. Widell, OD Email: [jwidell@sunyopt.edu](mailto:jwidell@sunyopt.edu)

Position available: 1

Mission Statement

The residency in Community Health/ Ocular Disease Optometry seeks to attract highly qualified optometric graduates who have demonstrated above average entry-level competence in full-scope optometric care and have an interest in community-based practice in an urban locale. This program provides the opportunity for the resident to render continuity of care for patients with a diverse range of eye and vision disorders. Individuals who complete the program will be prepared to develop and operate a full-scope optometric service in an inner city environment, and have the ability to assume a faculty position at an optometric educational institution.

**Category: Primary Care Optometry (Emphasis: Ocular Disease and Community Health Optometry)**

## Low Vision Rehabilitation Residency at SUNY

Supervisor: R. Marinoff, OD Email: [rmarinoff@sunyopt.edu](mailto:rmarinoff@sunyopt.edu)

Position available: 1

Mission Statement

The Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation will provide the resident with advanced and concentrated clinical and didactic experience in all aspects of Low Vision Rehabilitation. The resident will be involved in both coordination and consultation of patient care with other rehabilitation, medical, and social services. Individuals who complete the program are expected to be able to deliver a high level of clinical care, serve as teachers in optometric institutions, and serve in a leadership role in optometric and service agencies and organizations involved in low vision care.

**Category: Low Vision Rehabilitation (Emphasis: Ocular Disease)**

## Ocular Disease Residency at SUNY

Supervisor: S. Bass, OD Email: [sbass@sunyopt.edu](mailto:sbass@sunyopt.edu)

Positions available: 4

Mission Statement

The mission of the Residency in Ocular Disease, sponsored by the State University of New York, College of Optometry, is to offer qualified optometrists advanced training, education and research opportunities in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease and to prepare the resident to become a clinical and didactic educator. The program has four parts: 1) a patient care component that assures sufficient numbers of encounters and diversity of conditions in a variety of clinical settings both within the College and at external sites, including a hospital setting 2) a didactic component that provides advanced knowledge in ocular disease 3) a pedagogic component that allows for the acquisition of clinical and classroom teaching skills and 4) a research/scholarly activity portion. The resident participates in patient care in other of the College's clinical units, on a limited and elective basis. Upon completion of the program, the resident will be qualified to provide high level diagnosis and independent or co-management of ocular diseases in private or institutional settings, engage in scholarly activities, and function as an optometric educator in this field.

**Category: Ocular Disease (Emphasis: Glaucoma and Retina)**

## Ocular Disease Residency at Atlantic Eye Physicians

Supervisor: B. Hall, OD Email: [brian.hall.od@gmail.com](mailto:brian.hall.od@gmail.com)

Positions available: 3

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Residency in Ocular Disease at Atlantic Eye Physicians is to offer qualified optometrists advanced clinical training and education in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease in a private practice environment. The program will prepare the resident to work confidently and efficiently as part of a dynamic team of professionals including ophthalmologists, optometrists, ophthalmic technicians, opticians and administrative personnel to deliver the highest quality level care from primary eye care to advanced ocular disease management.

**Category: Ocular Disease (Emphasis: Primary Care Optometry)**

## Ocular Disease Residency at Flaum Eye Institute

Supervisors: J. DaSilva, OD

Email: [jessica\\_dasilva@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:jessica_dasilva@urmc.rochester.edu)

Positions available: 2

Mission Statement:

The Flaum Eye Institute at the University of Rochester affiliated with SUNY State College of Optometry is committed to providing full-scope ocular disease training at the post-doctoral level. The strong didactic and clinical components of this program build on principles of continuous learning to provide a challenging and rewarding residency. Upon the completion of our program, residents will be prepared to excel at providing the highest level of optometric care in hospitals, private practices and educational institutions.

**Category: Ocular Disease (Emphasis: Primary Care Optometry)**

## Primary Eye Care Optometry Residency at SUNY

Supervisor: A. Steinway, OD Email: [asteinway@sunyopt.edu](mailto:asteinway@sunyopt.edu)

Positions available: 2

Mission Statement

The SUNY Primary Eye Care Residency provides the highly qualified optometrist with the opportunity to advance in all aspects of Primary Eye Care rendered to a diverse patient population. Opportunities are provided to diagnose, treat and manage a wide variety of visual system problems, including ocular diseases, and ocular manifestations of systemic diseases.

This residency program provides:

- \* A broad based patient population, with sufficient numbers of encounters to supply a wide variety of conditions.
- \* A pedagogic component that allows for the acquisition of clinical and classroom teaching skills.
- \* Scholarly activities and didactic components that allow the resident to increase his/her knowledge base, along with contributing to the literature.

**Category: Primary Care Optometry (Emphasis: Ocular Disease)**

## Primary Eye Care / Ocular Disease Residency at Harbor Health Veterans Affairs Healthcare System

Supervisor: M. D'Amura, OD Email: [michelle.d'amura@va.gov](mailto:michelle.d'amura@va.gov)

Positions available: 4

Mission Statement

The mission of the NY Harbor Health Care System (Brooklyn/St. Albans) is to afford the resident training and education to provide for the ocular and visual needs of a middle-aged to elderly population of veterans. Each resident will divide his/her time between a primary care facility (St. Albans campus) and an acute care facility (Brooklyn campus). Each resident will be expected to diagnose and provide basic care in all aspects of optometry and advanced care in ocular disease with an emphasis on glaucoma. The resident will act as a full member of the health care team with the ability to utilize all hospital resources and services. Residents will be prepared to assume academic/teaching responsibilities as part of their function in a health care service environment.

**Category: Primary Care Optometry (Emphasis: Ocular Disease and Glaucoma)**

Primary Eye Care / Ocular Disease Residency VA Hudson Valley Healthcare System

Supervisors: L. Feroli, OD & J. Jung, OD  
Emails: Lauren.Feroli@va.gov & Jean.Jung@va.gov  
Positions available: 4 (plus 1 Without Compensation)  
Mission Statement  
The residency at the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (VA HVHCS) seeks to attract the best-qualified optometric graduates for advanced optometric training in primary care and ocular disease. The residency strives to provide advanced didactic knowledge and concentrated clinical experience in a multi-disciplinary setting. Individuals who complete the program are expected to attain a high level of proficiency in the diagnosis and management of ocular diseases; in particular, ocular conditions associated with systemic diseases. Trainees completing the program develop advanced competence in medical optometry. Residents will pursue scholarly activities, develop student mentoring and academic skills and strive toward lifelong learning.  
Category: Primary Care Optometry (Emphasis: Ocular Disease)

Pediatric Optometry Residency at SUNY

Supervisor: M. Vricella, OD  
Email: mvrlicella@sunyopt.edu  
Positions available: 2  
Mission Statement  
The Residency in Pediatric Optometry provides advanced levels of clinical skills, teaching, and the opportunity for scholarly activity. The residency covers the breadth of primary and secondary pediatric vision care. Residents of the program will deliver advanced levels of care in group health settings, serve as educators in optometric or related health institutions, and conduct clinical scholarly activity with the goal of professional leadership and social change in pediatric vision care for Optometry and in the greater community.  
Category: Pediatric Optometry

Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease Residency at VA New Jersey Healthcare System

Supervisor: M.Cafiero, OD  
Email: malinda.cafiero@va.gov  
Positions available: 3  
Mission Statement  
The Optometric Residency program at the Veterans Affairs New Jersey Healthcare System is committed to expanding the knowledge of its residents in the delivery of primary optometric patient care, particularly as it pertains to ocular disease, in addition to providing exposure to low vision. The optometry resident is provided the opportunity to participate in the delivery of health care in a multi-disciplinary hospital-based setting, with both a large outpatient and inpatient population. Our program strives to provide the resident with an environment that enhances clinical skills while also fostering the pursuit of scholarly activities.  
Category: Primary Care Optometry (Emphasis: Ocular Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation)

Ocular Disease / Primary Eye Care Residency at BronxCare Health System

Supervisor: A. Khattar-Sullivan, OD  
Email: Akhattar@bronxcare.org  
Positions available: 3  
Mission Statement  
The mission of the Optometric Residency in Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry at BronxCare Health System is to provide the post-doctoral optometrist a rich clinical learning experience through its diverse patient base in the underserved South and Central Bronx communities in both multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary health care settings. This program enables the resident to gain a high level of clinical competency in full-scope optometric care as well as acquire an advanced didactic education. Graduates of this residency program will possess the skills necessary to thrive in the areas of patient care, optometric education, and leadership within hospital-based as well as private clinical settings.  
Category: Ocular Disease (Emphasis: Primary Care Optometry)

Pediatric Optometry / Ocular Disease Residency at BronxCare Health System

Residency Supervisors: A. Pelowski, OD & D. Crane, OD  
Emails: apelowski@bronxcare.org dcrane@bronxcare.org  
Positions available: 1  
Mission Statement:  
The mission of the Optometric Residency Program in Pediatric Optometry/Ocular Disease at BronxCare Health System is to provide the post-doctoral optometrist with a rich multi-disciplinary clinical experience through its diverse patient base in the underserved South and Central Bronx communities. This program will enable the resident to gain an advanced level of didactic education and clinical competency in all areas of pediatric eye care as well as adult ocular disease. Graduates of this residency program will possess the skills and confidence to care for the pediatric population as well as diagnose and manage ocular disease presenting in any age group. Graduates will have the tools to thrive in areas of patient care, optometric education and leadership within hospital-based as well as private optometric clinical settings.  
Category: Pediatric Optometry (Emphasis: Primary Care Optometry and Ocular Disease)

Ocular Disease / Primary Eye Care Residency at Upstate Medical University Syracuse

Supervisor: M Abazaga, OD  
Email: abazagam@upstate.edu  
Positions available: 1  
Mission Statement  
The mission for the Ocular Disease residency program, with an emphasis in Primary Care Optometry at SUNY Upstate Medical University is to provide advanced clinical training to post-doctoral optometrist in a hospital based clinical setting in Upstate New York. The program will focus on expanding residents' clinical skills and critical thinking in ocular disease and primary eye care. With a diverse program and patient population, graduates will develop the confidence to handle challenging cases. The skills gained during the residency program will facilitate residents to succeed in both academic and clinical practice.  
Category: Ocular Disease (Emphasis: Primary Care Optometry)

Primary Eye Care/Vision Therapy and Low Vision Rehabilitation Residency at Northport VA Medical Center

Supervisor: S. Patel, OD  
Email: Shephali.patel@va.gov  
Positions available: 4  
Mission Statement  
The residency in Primary Care/Vision Therapy and Low Vision Rehabilitation seeks to attract the best qualified optometry graduates who have demonstrated an interest in rehabilitative modalities, as well as advanced primary care in an interdisciplinary team setting. The resident will be provided with advanced clinical training in low vision and rehabilitative orthoptics, including evaluation and management of patients with sensorimotor deficits, visual consequences of head trauma and vestibular disorders. In addition, the resident will provide beyond entry level patient care in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular diseases. Residents will be involved in multidisciplinary patient care in a VA Medical Center setting. Individuals who complete the program are expected to be able to deliver a high level of clinical care in these areas.  
Category: Primary Care Optometry (Emphasis: Ocular Disease and Vision Rehabilitation)

Vision Therapy & Rehabilitation Residency at Eye Care Associates

Supervisor: R. Schulman, OD  
Email: drrandyschulman@gmail.com  
Positions available: 2  
Mission Statement  
The mission of EyeCare Associate's residency in Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation is to expand awareness, accessibility and advanced competence in the areas of vision therapy and rehabilitation in a private practice setting. The program provides proficiency 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.  
Category: Vision Rehabilitation (Emphasis: Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation and Brain Injury Rehabilitation)

Vision Rehabilitation (Brain Injury Rehabilitation) Optometry Residency at SUNY

Supervisor: M.H.E. Han, OD  
Email: mhan@sunyopt.edu  
Positions available: 1  
Mission Statement  
The Residency in Vision Rehabilitation (Brain Injury Emphasis) provides advanced clinical training in the diagnosis, treatment and vision rehabilitation of patients with acquired brain injury (ABI) that result from trauma, cerebral vascular accident, tumor, aneurysm, and post-surgical complications. The program provides the graduate completing the residency program with:  
\* An interdisciplinary approach that is core to managing patients with acquired brain injury (ABI) and includes rehabilitation, medical, and social service professionals.  
\* An advanced and concentrated didactic component in ABI-related primary eye care and vision rehabilitation  
\* The knowledge base to assume an active role within organized optometry and provide primary eye care and vision rehabilitation for patients with ABI in a variety of clinical settings including: private, hospital, university clinical, and community-based setting.  
Category: Vision Rehabilitation (Emphasis: Brain Injury Rehabilitation)

Dr. Irwin B. Suchoff Residency Program in Vision Therapy & Rehabilitation at SUNY

Supervisor: L. Strawn, OD  
Email: lstrawn@sunyopt.edu  
Positions available: 4  
Mission Statement  
The residency in vision therapy seeks to attract the best-qualified candidates and provide them with advanced didactic knowledge and a concentrated clinical experience in optometric vision therapy. Individuals who complete the program are expected to be able to deliver a high level of clinical care in vision therapy, serve as teachers in optometric institutions, and serve the profession of optometry as experts and leaders in the areas of vision therapy and binocular vision.  
Category: Vision Rehabilitation (Emphasis: Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation)

Combined Optometry Residency and Graduate Degree in Vision Science

Supervisor: J. Portello, OD  
Email: jportello@sunyopt.edu  
Positions available: 2  
Mission Statement  
The combined Graduate/Residency program, at the State University of New York, College of Optometry, provides an individual with the opportunity to obtain advanced clinical competency in an area of optometric care through a residency program, coupled with a graduate degree (MS or PhD) that complements the clinical experience. Translational research and the direct clinical application will occur while developing and maintaining advanced clinical competencies. (Completion of Combined Program and benefits are determined in conjunction with Graduate Programs guidelines)  
Category: Complements Graduate Research

updated: January 2026