

# Optometric Residency Program

## GERIATRIC OPTOMETRY PRIMARY EYE CARE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
AMERICAN LAKE DIVISION  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

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

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### MISSION

This Primary Eye Care/Geriatric Optometry Residency is a one-year post-doctoral training program sponsored by the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, American Lake Division. This residency program offers qualified Doctors of Optometry an educational opportunity to treat an exceptional outpatient veteran population from the South Puget Sound area of Washington. Primary eye care experiences include diagnosis,

treatment and management of primary and secondary diseases and dysfunctions of the human eye, adnexa, and visual tracts. 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 and University's resources will be encouraged. Residents will develop clinical and didactic teaching skills.





## GENERAL INFORMATION

Residency Program Supervisors  
Jeffrey A. Hiett, O.D.

### Duration of Agreement

July 1 through June 30

### Number of Positions

Four (4) residency positions available each year

### Annual Salary

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

### Hours

Expected range of hours of attendance in a typical week of activities is 40 hours. The Eye Clinic runs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Leave

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

### 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 Tort Claim Act in instances of alleged malpractice 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 resident's ability to identify and manage ocular disorders in the elderly.
- 2 Teach the resident how to most effectively integrate his or her skills into an interdisciplinary program designed specifically for the geriatric patient.
- 3 Prepare optometrists for careers in hospital-based optometry and/or clinical teaching.

## 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 of educational conferences. Numerous conferences are available at no charge for optometrists in or around the Seattle/Tacoma area.

## 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

Residents are required to be supervised as per VA Chapter 26 and Medicare regulations. The Optometry Residency Program Supervisor must submit a statement regarding the residents' level of training, which determines the residents' scope of practice. Optometry privileges at VA Puget Sound Health Care System are equivalent to Washington State law.

## Performance Evaluations

The residents will receive written evaluations from the Residency Program Supervisor at four months, eight months, and at the completion of the residency. The residents will evaluate the residency program at these same intervals.

## WORKSITE

Residents will be expected to work at the American Lake Division Optometry Clinic and Blind Rehabilitation Center. Residents may visit external sites for educational purposes.

## Clinical Facilities

The Department of Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System is a modern facility composed of two divisions (Seattle and Tacoma) which offer care to over one million veterans in Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The clinical facilities are spacious and well-equipped to serve both patient needs and the residency program's educational objectives.

## Specialty Clinics

Low Vision, Retina, Glaucoma, and Oculoplastics/Ophthalmic Pathology

## SPECIALTY AREAS AT AMERICAN LAKE DIVISION

### Low Vision/VIST/BROS Program

Residents participate in complete low vision evaluations as part of the Blind Rehabilitation Center/Low Vision rotation.

### Retina, Glaucoma, Oculoplastics, Ophthalmic Pathology, and Surgical Ophthalmology Clinics

Patients are examined with board certified, fellowship-trained staff.

### Library and Research Resources

Residents are provided access to the libraries and computer databases at American Lake, Seattle, and the University of Washington. The general libraries at American Lake, Seattle, and the University of Washington carry a large number of ophthalmic periodicals. The University of Washington and Madigan Army Medical Center Libraries are available for use upon request.

### Computer Access/Email/ Telephone Care

Computer workstations are available with Internet access in each eye exam room. Residents are assigned an email address for communicating with other health care providers both in Tacoma, Seattle and surrounding areas, as well as Portland and Vancouver areas.

### Ocular Prosthetics Services

Prosthetic eyes are provided to veterans in conjunction with Erickson Labs Northwest.

### Perimetry, Digital Photography, & OCT

A health technician administers Humphrey and Matrix FDT visual field evaluations, digital photography, and OCT upon request.

### Weekly Optometric Seminar

Seminars are based upon the needs and desires of the residents.

### Administration Time

Each resident is scheduled eight hours each week for administrative time. This time is intended to be used for preparation of case reports and library research.

## WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A RESIDENT

### monday

MORNING  
Eye Clinic

AFTERNOON

Surgical Ophthalmology

### tuesday

Off-site rotation  
Glaucoma  
Low Vision

### wednesday

Eye Clinic or  
Ophthalmic Pathology/Oculoplastics

### thursday

MORNING  
Eye Clinic

AFTERNOON

Retina

### friday

MORNING  
Eye Clinic

AFTERNOON

Surgical Ophthalmology



## TACOMA LIVING

### Housing & Cost of Living

Moderate, depending on individual life style.

### Commuting & Parking

The VA Facility is located a few miles off of Interstate 5. There is ample parking near the VA complex.

### Recreation

There is a nine-hole golf course, driving range, pickle ball court, baseball field, tennis court, and a gymnasium (with free weights, exercise equipment, showers, and an indoor basketball court) at the VA. The VA facility is located on American Lake which has boating, fishing, and ski-doo rentals.

Tacoma has many recreational activities available upon request from the Tacoma Visitors Bureau. These include: snow skiing, hiking, biking trails, Puyallup Fair, First Night Out, and many other festivals. Seattle is a 40-minute drive from the VA.

## CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

For additional information about these residency opportunities, please contact:

### Jeffrey A. Hiett, O.D.

Residency Program Supervisor

### (112 OP-A) Eye Clinic

VA Puget Sound Health Care System  
Tacoma, WA 98493

253-583-1232 between 3:30-4:30 p.m.

*Jeffery.Hiett@med.va.gov*

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1** Candidates must earn the degree of Doctor of Optometry from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education prior to the starting date of the residency program.
- 2** Candidates must have passed the NBEO Part I and have taken Part II by the application deadline. The selected candidate must have passed Part II and be scheduled to sit for Part III.
- 3** The candidate must be a United States citizen.
- 4** The Department of Veterans Affairs is an equal opportunity employer for all qualified persons.
- 5** Candidates must apply to this residency program through the Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) online at [www.natmatch.com/ormatch/](http://www.natmatch.com/ormatch/)