

Archive of ACOE Accreditation Actions and Decisions - July 26, 2021 Updated March 2023

Consistent with Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) policy, the ACOE publishes the following information about accreditation and pre-accreditation decisions:

- the type of program (professional optometric degree, optometric residency or optometric technician);
- the program's sponsor, and in the case of an optometric residency not sponsored by a school or college of optometry, the name of the affiliated optometric institution;
- accreditation status or action;
- the year of the next currently scheduled site visit; and
- the Council's summary of compliance with the standards, which specifies the Council's basis for any final decision. Updates to the summary of compliance will be published in subsequent reports of ACOE meeting actions when the ACOE determines that the standards are met.

[Definitions of pre-accreditation classification and accreditation status](#)

At its June 23-26, 2021 virtual meeting, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) took the following actions: (Note: Date in parenthesis is the date of the next currently scheduled evaluation visit to the programs. Depending on the outcomes of annual reports, progress reports, interim visits, substantive program changes and other significant events affecting a program, the Council may decide to schedule a full on-site evaluation visit before the original accreditation period is complete. The accreditation period is eight years for professional optometric degree, optometric residency and optometric technician programs.)

1. Preaccreditation Actions: None

2. Initial Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" granted following a virtual site visit (*with an on-site visit to be conducted within a reasonable timeframe*). Asterisks (*) indicate new residency programs with their initial site visit scheduled in 2020, but were canceled due to the COVID-19 interruption and subsequently visited virtually in 2021; the accreditation decision is retroactive to the date of the originally planned site visit in 2020.

A. Akron Children's Hospital Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with The Ohio State University, College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2021: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

B. *Albuquerque Indian Health Center Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated March 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards II, III, IV, and V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the

Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

C. *BronxCare Health System Residency in Pediatric Optometry/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with State University of New York College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

D. *California Eye Specialists Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2021: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

E. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Residency in Pediatric Optometry which is affiliated with University of Missouri- St. Louis, College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated March 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards III and V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

F. *Community Health Centers of California Residency in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry (2029.) The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2021: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and II following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

G. Dell Laser Consultants Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards II, III and V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

H. *Doctors Vision Centre Residency in Paediatric/Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation Optometry, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards II, III, IV, V and IV following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found

the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

I. *Duke University Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2021: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and II following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

J. *Empire Eye & Laser Center Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards III and V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

K. Gainesville Eye Associates Residency in Ocular Disease and Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2022: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard II following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

L. *Jacksonville VAMC Residency in Primary Care, which is affiliated with Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2023: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education

M. Moyes Eye Center Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

N. New England College of Optometry Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated March 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

O. Parkhurst NuVision Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

P. *Providence Community Health Center Residency in Community Health Optometry, which is affiliated with New England College of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Q. Southern College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphases in Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Vision Therapy (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2021: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

R. Southern College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphases in Low Vision Rehabilitation and Ocular Disease (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2021: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard II following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

S. VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

T. Vanderbilt Eye Institute Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2021: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

U. *York Vision Care, Mid-Atlantic Cornea Consultants Residency in Cornea/Specialty Contact Lens with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University (2029). The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2021: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard I following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress

reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

3. Continuing Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" continued following a virtual site visit (*with an on-site visit to be conducted within a reasonable timeframe*)

A. Southern College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree program (2029). The program's status of Accredited was continued, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program fully meets the eight standards for professional optometric degree programs.

B. State University of New York College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation (Brain Injury Rehabilitation) (2029). The program's status of Accredited was continued, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated March 2022: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard I following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Classification of "Accredited" continued following a virtual interim site visit:

MCPHS University School of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree program (2027). The Council conducted a focused interim site visit to assess Standards II and VIII. The program's status of Accredited was continued based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program fully meets the eight standards for professional optometric degree programs.

4. Reconsideration of Accreditation Denial: None

5. Withdrawal of accreditation by ACOE: None

6. Voluntary withdrawal of accreditation: None

Note: In addition to the above accreditation actions, the ACOE also reviewed the following program(s) applying for initial application as a professional optometric degree program. (Stage One Applicant and Stage Two Applicant are not official pre-accreditation classifications, but rather steps toward pre-accreditation.)

Designation of Stage One Applicant

- None

Designation of Stage Two Applicant

- Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions College of Optometry in Provo, Utah

Definitions

Preaccreditation Classification: In the case of a program which is not fully operational, the Council may grant the preaccreditation status of Preliminary Approval following satisfaction by the program of the requirements for initial application as outlined in the ACOE's Policy and Procedure Manual and the Council's review of an evaluation team report following a site visit.

Preliminary Approval: A preaccreditation classification granted to a professional optometric degree program that has clearly demonstrated it is developing in accordance with Council Standards. The program has approval to begin student recruitment, selection and admissions and to begin offering the program. The Council shall review the preliminary approval classification annually during each academic year of the program through written reports and/or evaluation visits as deemed necessary by the Council. The Council will conduct a final on-site evaluation visit to the program for the consideration of an accreditation status during the academic year in which the first class is expected to graduate. If the program is found to meet the Council's Standards, then the Council will grant an appropriate accreditation status. As required by the USDE, the Council will not grant preaccreditation status to a program for longer than five years. When the Council awards Preliminary Approval to a program or at any time during the Council's monitoring of a program holding Preliminary Approval status, the ACOE may issue recommendations or specify conditions for monitoring, which must be attained in order to maintain the preaccreditation status.

Accreditation Status: The ACOE may decide to grant one of the two following accreditation statuses to a program following adoption of the evaluation team report and recommendations. Accreditation status may be lowered or revoked if the Council determines that the program is not making sufficient progress on recommendations from the Council.

Accredited: A classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program generally meets the standards for accreditation. This classification indicates that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. However, recommendations relating to marginal compliance with certain standards, and suggestions relating to program enhancement may be included in evaluation reports.

Accredited with Conditions: A classification granted to an educational program with major deficiencies or weaknesses with reference to the standards of accreditation. This classification indicates that the educational effectiveness of the program is in jeopardy. Programs with this classification will be required to submit progress reports and shall undergo a full evaluation visit within two (2) years for professional optometric degree programs, eighteen (18) months for optometric residencies, and one (1) year for optometric technician programs.

The ACOE Policies and Procedure Manual may be found in the [Accreditation Resources and Directories of Programs](#) section.