

Recent accreditation actions and decisions of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)

July 18, 2022

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 15-18, 2022 meeting in Chicago, Illinois, 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.)

Visits that were conducted virtually are indicated; a follow-up on-site visit will be conducted within a reasonable timeframe.

1. Preaccreditation Actions: None

2. Initial Accreditation:

A. Kugler Vision Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards I, II and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met in part	The program's mission and goals do not align with its published title of Primary Care Optometry. (1.1)
II. Curriculum	Met in part	The resident is not provided the opportunity to precept optometry students and has limited exposure

		to BlephEx and LipiFlow technologies, which are stated objectives of the program. (2.2) The category of “precepting” is incorrectly utilized on patient logs and is not an accurate description of the resident’s clinical activity. (2.2.1)
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The program’s publications overstate the resident’s role in clinical trials and are unclear and inconsistent with respect to scholarly activity expectations, including Goal 6, Objective 1 and publication requirements. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

B. Louisiana Family Eyecare Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards III and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met	
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met in part	The quality assurance process does not include the residency faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	Discrepancies exist among the program publications and with residency practices regarding on-call responsibilities. (5.1.3) The program does not provide the criteria used to assess resident performance in written orientation materials. (5.3.10)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

C. Milan Eye Center Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards II, III and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Level of Compliance</u>	<u>Reason for met in part or not met</u>
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met	
II. Curriculum	Met in Part	The written curriculum does not include all program activities. (2.1) The written supervision policy is not followed. (2.3)
III. Administration	Met in Part	The program does not have a quality assurance process that includes residency faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in Part	The program's published completion requirements are inconsistent with actual completion requirements. (5.1.3) The program does not publish on-call requirements. (5.2.2) The program does not include clinical practice protocols used in the resident's written orientation materials. (5.3.1) The program does not provide a written academic calendar to the resident. (5.3.9) The program does not provide written criteria to assess resident performance during orientation. (5.3.10)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

D. New Mexico VA Health Care System Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of Houston College of Optometry (2030). The program is 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.

E. Paul Vision Institute Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with the Southern College of Optometry (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards III and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Level of Compliance</u>	<u>Reason for met in part or not met</u>
-----------------	----------------------------	--

I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met	
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met in part	A formal process of quality assurance is not in place for all program faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	Criteria used to assess resident's performance is not provided in writing. (5.3.10)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

F. University of California San Francisco Optometry Service Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with University of California, Berkeley, Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to a recommendation to meet Standard I.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Level of Compliance</u>	<u>Reason for met in part or not met</u>
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Program Improvement	MET IN PART	The program's mission and goals do not align with its published title of ocular disease. (1.1)
II. Curriculum	MET	
III. Administration	MET	
IV. Faculty	MET	
V. Residents	MET	
VI. Resources and Facilities	MET	

G. University of Chicago Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Illinois College of Optometry (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to a recommendation to meet Standard V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Level of Compliance</u>	<u>Reason for met in part or not met</u>
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met	
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The pediatric experience is described differently in different publications, and the published amount of time spent in pediatrics is inaccurate. (5.1.3)

VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	
------------------------------	-----	--

H. University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease (2030). 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.

I. VA Lowell/ VA Boston Healthcare System Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Primary Care, which is affiliated with New England College of Optometry (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards II and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met	
II. Curriculum	Met in part	The program's supervision policy does not include assessment of the resident's level of attainment of advanced clinical competencies. (2.3)
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The program does not publish that the resident's orientation occurs the week prior to the start of the program. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

3. Continuing Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" continued following a site visit:

A. Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with The Ohio State University College of Optometry (2030). 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 six standards for residency programs.

B. (Virtual) Crownpoint Health Care Facility Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards I and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	MET IN PART	The program's published title of ocular disease is not included in the mission and goals of the residency. (1.1)
II. Curriculum	MET	
III. Administration	MET	
IV. Faculty	MET	
V. Residents	MET IN PART	The program's publications inaccurately list the number of paid federal holidays. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	MET	

C. Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry Residency in Primary Eye Care

(2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards I, II and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met in part	Resident evaluations of the program have not been completed in a timely manner on a consistent basis. (1.5.1) Resident evaluations of the Program Coordinator have not been completed in a timely manner on a consistent basis. (1.5.2)
II. Curriculum	Met in part	The published supervision policy does not delineate the benchmarks for resident attainment of increasingly independent clinical responsibility. (2.3)
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	Publications differ with respect to start date, deadline for application, selection criteria, weekly hours of attendance, and the length of the program. (5.1.3) A policy addressing leave/time-off is not published. (5.2.4)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

D. Long Beach VAMC Residency in Primary Eye Care/Low Vision Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2030). 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 is required to report on its progress related to a recommendation to meet Standard II.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	MET	
II. Curriculum	MET IN PART	Discrepancies exist between residents' documentation of patient encounters in Meditrek® and those reported in the VISTA logs over multiple years. (2.2.1)
III. Administration	MET	
IV. Faculty	MET	
V. Residents	MET	
VI. Resources and Facilities	MET	

E. Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree Program

(2030). 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.

F. (Virtual) VA Illiana Health Care System Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Indiana University School of Optometry (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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards II and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	MET	
II. Curriculum	MET IN PART	The record of the resident's patient encounters does not differentiate between direct and precepting and the log of observational encounters does not include patient count. (2.2.1)
III. Administration	MET	
IV. Faculty	MET	
V. Residents	MET IN PART	The residency's publications do not include that prior to matriculation the resident must earn an O.D. degree from an ACOE accredited program. (5.1.1) The residency's publications, advertising, and resident recruitment materials and activities are inconsistent with respect to the name of the Director of Residencies, the number of required letters of recommendation, its requirement for U.S. citizenship, and resident involvement in post-

		operative co-management with ophthalmology. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	MET	

G. (Virtual) VA Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, Springfield Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (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 six standards for residency programs.

H. Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree Program (2030). 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 or Appeal of Adverse Action or Determination of Accredited with Conditions: 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

- None

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](#) section.