

Archive of ACOE Accreditation Actions and Decisions - March 28, 2023 Updated March 2024

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 February 24-26, 2023 Winter meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, 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: None

3. Continuing Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" continued following a site visit:

A. Dimock Center Residency in Ocular Disease with emphases in Community Health Optometry and Primary Care Optometry, which is affiliated with New England 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. Updated November 2023: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards II and V following a site visit in 2022 and based on a subsequent progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

B. DotHouse Health Inc. Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Community Health and Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with New England 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. Updated November 2023: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2022 and based on a subsequent progress report submitted by the program, the Council

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

C. James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Ocular Disease, 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 fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Classification of “Accredited with Conditions*” granted following a full evaluation site visit:

*A decision to grant the classification of *Accredited with Conditions* is not final until the ACOE appeals process has been exhausted, or until 30 days from notification of the action to grant *Accredited with Conditions*.

A. Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree Program (2025). The program was granted the accreditation status of Accredited with Conditions. The classification Accredited with Conditions indicates that the program has major deficiencies or weaknesses with reference to the Standards of accreditation that compromise the educational effectiveness of the program. This classification indicates that the accreditation of the program is in jeopardy. Updated November 2023 and March 2024: based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found recommendations 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 to be met. The month and year behind the reason for met in part or not met denotes when the program met the standard. The program is required to continue reporting on its progress related to the remaining unmet recommendations and will undergo a full evaluation visit within two years of the accreditation decision. With respect to the program’s accreditation status, the Council has determined that progress toward meeting the recommendations is sufficient to warrant raising the program’s accreditation status from “Accredited with Conditions” to “Accredited”.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 ACOE Professional Optometric Degree Program Standards

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for Met in Part or Not Met
I. Mission, Goals and Objectives	Met	
II. Curriculum	Met in Part	The program does not define and utilize criteria for externship site selection. (2.10.1)
III. Research and Scholarly Activity	Met	
IV. Governance, Regional Accreditation, Administration and Finances	Met	The program does not have access to sufficient financial resources, putting fulfillment of its mission, goals, objectives at risk. (4.6) MET 10 2023 The College does not have controls in place to prevent undue influence from donors. (4.7) MET 10 2023
V. Faculty	Met in Part	The program does not have sufficient faculty to ensure its ongoing ability to fulfill its mission, goals, and objectives. (5.1)

		The program does not demonstrate efforts to recruit a diverse faculty. (5.6) MET 10 2023
VI. Students	Met	
VII. Facilities, Equipment and Resources	Met in Part	The program does not have a plan for the repair and maintenance of ophthalmic equipment, computers, and technology infrastructure. (7.1.1) MET 02 2024 Library support staff are not sufficient to meet the program's needs. (7.3) MET 10 2023
VIII. Clinic Management and Patient Care Policies	Met	

4. On-site follow up visits conducted to programs which were visited virtually, using the flexibilities allowed by the United States Department of Education (USDE), in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ACOE has conducted on-site follow-up visits to the following programs to assess whether any potential areas of non-compliance were not evident due to the virtual format. The ACOE affirmed compliance with standards, status of “Accredited” and date of next site visit resulting from the virtual site visit.

A. 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;

B. BronxCare Health System Residency in Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry, which is affiliated with State University of New York College of Optometry;

C. BronxCare Health System Residency in Pediatric Optometry/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with State University of New York College of Optometry;

D. California Eye Specialists Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University;

E. Community Health Centers of California Residency in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry;

F. 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;

G. Doctors Vision Centre Residency in Paediatric/Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation Optometry, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry;

H. Duke University Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry;

I. Empire Eye & Laser Center Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University;

J. Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses;

K. Gallup Indian Medical Center Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University;

L. Jacksonville VAMC Residency in Primary Care, which is affiliated with Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry;

M. Midwestern University Chicago College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree program;
N. Moyes Eye Center Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry;

O. New England College of Optometry Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation;

P. Providence Community Health Center Residency in Community Health Optometry, which is affiliated with New England College of Optometry;

Q. Southern College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree program;

R. State University of New York College of Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry;

S. State University of New York College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation (Brain Injury Rehabilitation);

T. Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University;

U. University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree program;

V. VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry;

W. Vanderbilt Eye Institute Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry;

X. Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, Springfield Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Northeastern State University, Oklahoma College of Optometry;

Y. Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center Indian Health Service Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University.

5. Reconsideration or Appeal of Adverse Action or Determination of Accredited with Conditions: None

6. Withdrawal of accreditation by ACOE: None

7. Voluntary withdrawal of accreditation: None

Definitions

Preaccreditation Classification: a classification from a USDE-recognized accrediting agency (such as the ACOE) that indicates the program or institution is within the scope of the agency's recognition from the USDE and subject to criteria specified in the Code of Federal Regulations Part 602; preaccreditation signals that an unaccredited program or institution is progressing toward accreditation within a reasonable period of time.

In the case of a program which is not fully operational, the Council may grant the classification 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: An ACOE classification that is equivalent to the USDE's preaccreditation classification. This classification indicates the professional optometric degree program 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.
- 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 to maintain the Preliminary Approval status.
- After an evaluation visit team conducts a formal on-site evaluation visitation, the team's evaluation report is submitted to the Council for its review.
- If the program is found to meet the Council's Standards, then the Council will grant an appropriate accreditation status.
- If the program is denied an accreditation status or if its Preliminary Approval status is withdrawn or expires, it must submit an updated teach-out plan (refer to ACOE Policy and Procedure "Teach-Out Process").

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 that compromise the

educational effectiveness of the program. This classification indicates that the accreditation 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.