

**Archive of ACOE Accreditation Actions and Decisions -July 24, 2023
Updated November 2023**

Consistent with Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) policy, the ACOE publishes the following information about accreditation and preaccreditation 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.
- ACOE publishes on its website [information](#) regarding programs with “Accredited with Conditions” status and programs from which ACOE has withdrawn accreditation status or Preliminary Approval status.

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

At its June 21-24 2023 Annual meeting in Washington, D.C., 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 site visit:

A. California Eye Specialists/Azul Vision – Inland Empire Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2031). 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 III.

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 program does not conduct a clinical quality assurance process involving faculty. (3.5)

IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

B. Center for Sight and Dry Eye Institute Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Illinois College of Optometry (2031). 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 resident does not perform minor anterior segment surgical procedures or anterior segment laser procedures as specified in the program's objectives. (2.2) The resident does not engage in self-assessment activities. (2.4.4)
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The resident's orientation does not include clinical practice protocols. (5.3.1)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

C. Vance Thompson Vision, North Dakota Residency in Ocular Disease with emphases in Refractive/Ocular Surgery and Glaucoma, which is affiliated with Indiana University School of Optometry (2031). 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. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Eye Center Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University (2031). 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.

E. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Eye Center Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University (2031). 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.

F. Washington University St. Louis School of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Cornea and Contact Lens, which is affiliated

with University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry (2031). 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 III.

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	The program does not have a clinical quality assurance process in place for the residency faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

3. Continuing Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" continued following a site visit:

A. Indiana University School 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards I, IV, VI, and VIII.

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

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Level of Compliance</u>	<u>Reason for met in part or not met</u>
I. Mission, Goals and Objectives	Met in Part	The program does not include graduation rate as an outcome measure used to assess program fulfillment of its goals and objectives in either of its 2017-2022 or 2022-2027 strategic plans. (1.3)
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Research and Scholarly Activity	Met	
IV. Governance, Regional Accreditation, Administration and Finances	Met in Part	A documented, University-endorsed position description for the program's chief executive officer does not exist. (4.4) The program does not assess the performance of its administrators. (4.5)
V. Faculty	Met	

VI. Students	Met in Part	The program's recruiting materials present inaccurate information with respect to anticipated number of student patient encounters and rate of placement in optometric residency programs. (6.6)
VII. Facilities, Equipment and Resources	Met	
VIII. Clinic Management and Patient Care Policies	Met in Part	The program does not verify the credentials of faculty members serving in its clinics. (8.2.2)

B. Jesse Brown VAMC Chicago/Hines VAH Residency in Ocular Disease/Low Vision Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Illinois College of Optometry (2031). 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.

C. Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University, Professional Optometric Degree Program (2031). 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, IV, and VII.

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

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Level of Compliance</u>	<u>Reason for met in part or not met</u>
I. Mission, Goals and Objectives	Met in Part	The program does not use graduation rate as an outcome measure to evaluate its effectiveness. (1.3)
II. Curriculum	Met in Part	The program does not document the criteria it uses in the selection of externship sites. (2.10.1)
III. Research and Scholarly Activity	Met	
IV. Governance, Regional Accreditation, Administration and Finances	Met in Part	The program does not define and administer a performance assessment process for non-faculty administrators. (4.5)
V. Faculty	Met	
VI. Students	Met	
VII. Facilities, Equipment and Resources	Met in Part	The program does not define, document, or follow a plan for the repair, maintenance, and replacement of facilities, instruments, and other equipment. (7.1.1)
VIII. Clinic Management and Patient Care Policies	Met	

D. University of Houston College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree Program (2031). 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 VIII.

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

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Level of Compliance</u>	<u>Reason for met in part or not met</u>
I. Mission, Goals and Objectives	Met in Part	Goals elaborating each of the major components of the mission and providing clarification and specificity for components of the mission statement are not published. (1.1.1) The program's plan for the use of outcome measures to assess achievement of its mission, goals, and objectives is not documented. (1.3)
II. Curriculum	Met in Part	The program does not have executed affiliation agreements for all externship sites. (2.10) The program criteria for selection of externship sites does not address required qualifications of supervising faculty, clinical privileging of supervising faculty (where applicable), space and equipment requirements, or clinical practice guidelines. (2.10.1)
III. Research and Scholarly Activity	Met	
IV. Governance, Regional Accreditation, Administration and Finances	Met	
V. Faculty	Met	
VI. Students	Met	
VII. Facilities, Equipment and Resources	Met	
VIII. Clinic Management and Patient Care Policies	Met in Part	The lack of professional healthcare interpreters and/or interpretation services in the clinic presents challenges in provision of care to the program's diverse patient demographic. (8.1)

E. University of Houston College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lens (2031). 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.

F. Wilkes-Barre VAMC Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University (2031). 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.

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. **Akron Children’s Hospital Residency in Pediatric Optometry**, which is affiliated with The Ohio State University, College of Optometry;
- B. **Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Residency in Pediatric Optometry**, which is affiliated with University of Missouri – St. Louis, College of Optometry;
- C. **Dell Laser Consultants Residency in Ocular Disease**, which is affiliated with University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry;
- D. **Illinois College of Optometry Residency in Ocular Disease/Primary Care**;
- E. **Gainesville Eye Associates Residency in Ocular Disease and Primary Eye Care**, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry;
- F. **Lebanon VA Medical Center Residency in Ocular Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation**, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry;
- G. **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;
- H. **Pacific University, College of Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation**;
- I. **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;
- J. **Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health Inc. Residency in Primary care with emphasis in Ocular Disease**, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University;
- K. **Southern College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphases in Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Vision Therapy**;
- L. **Southern College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphases in Low Vision Rehabilitation and Ocular Disease**;
- M. **VA Illiana Health Care System Residency in Ocular Disease**, which is affiliated with Indiana University School of Optometry;
- N. **VA Portland Health Care System**, which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry;
- O. **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;

5. Withdrawal of accreditation by ACOE:

The ACOE made the decision to withdraw accreditation from the **Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care at Crownpoint Health Care Facility**, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University. The reason for withdrawal of accreditation was due to the program’s lack of timely payment of evaluation site visit fees. *[This action becomes final 30 days after program notification if no appeal or request for reconsideration is filed by the program.]*

Definitions

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.