

**Archive of ACOE Accreditation Actions and Decisions – November 28, 2023
Updated March 2024**

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website [information](#) regarding programs with “Accredited with Conditions” status and programs from which ACOE has withdrawn accreditation status or Preliminary Approval status.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 October 27-29, 2023 Fall meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, 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. Northwest Eye Surgeons 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 II.

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 resident’s patient encounter log does not include all direct care and observational encounters. (2.2.1)
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	

V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

B. Phoenix Children’s Hospital Residency in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with Midwestern University Arizona 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 fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

C. The Ohio State University College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses (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 I.

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 resident did not receive two interim performance evaluations. (1.5.4)
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

D. Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry Residency in Vision Rehabilitation, Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation, Low Vision Rehabilitation (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. Updated March 2024: The program issued recommendations to meet Standards I and V following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

3. Continuing Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" continued following a site visit:

A. Better Vision Ahead Advanced Eyecare Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Northeastern State University Oklahoma 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.

B. Bowersox Vision Center, PSC Residency in Pediatric Optometry with emphasis in Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Southern 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. Updated March 2024: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and III following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

C. Bright Eyes Vision Clinic Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphasis in Pediatric Optometry, which is affiliated with Pacific University, 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. Updated March 2024: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

D. Georgia Eye Partners Residency in Ocular Disease with emphases in Cornea & Contact Lens and Refractive & Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Southern 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards II, III and V. Updated March 2024: based on a progress report submitted by the program, the Council has determined that two recommendations have been 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 recommendation.

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	The written supervision policy is not based on demonstrated clinical competence. (2.3) MET 02 2024
III. Administration	Met in part	The program does not participate in a clinical quality assurance process for the residency faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	The written supervision policy is not included in orientation materials. (5.3.2) MET 02 2024
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

E. Greenville VA Outpatient Clinic Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern 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. Updated March 2024: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard III following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

F. John D. Dingell VAMC Health Care System Residency in Primary Care and Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Ferris State University Michigan 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. Updated March 2024: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard IV following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

G. Manchester VAMC Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with New England 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.

H. San Diego VA Health Care System La Jolla Medical Center Residency in Primary Care Optometry, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum 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.

I. Sepulveda VA Ambulatory Care Center Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum 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.

J. Sierra Vista Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Primary Care, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum 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.

K. University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry Residency in Pediatric 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.

L. University of Houston College of Optometry Residency in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision (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.

M. University of Houston College of Optometry Residency in Primary Care 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.

N. University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Ocular Disease (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. Updated March 2024: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and II following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

O. VA Hudson Valley Health Care System Residency in Primary Care Optometry and Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with State University of New York 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. Updated March 2024: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

P. VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of California, Berkeley, Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science (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.

Q. VAMC Wilmington Delaware Residency in Ocular Disease with emphases in Glaucoma and Retina, 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. Updated March 2024: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

R. Vision Northwest Residency in Vision Therapy Rehabilitation and Pediatric Eye Care, which is affiliated with Pacific University, 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. Updated March 2024: The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2023 and based on a 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.

4. Reconsideration or Appeal of Adverse Action:

Crownpoint Health Care Facility Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care

The petition for reconsideration received from the 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, was accepted by the ACOE. The Council determined the facts upon which the Council's decision to withdraw accreditation no longer exist. The program's accreditation status remains "Accredited."

5. Withdrawal of accreditation by ACOE:

The ACOE made the decision to withdraw accreditation from the Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease at the William Chappell VA Outpatient Clinic, which is affiliated with the Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry. The reason for withdrawal of accreditation is that the program was dormant for its third year, with no resident enrolled since 2020-2021. The decision to

withdraw accreditation became final on December 16, 2023. No request for reconsideration or appeal was 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.