

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 22, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** **Addition of Examples of Evidence of 2.1 and 2.4 of 2017 Optometric Residency Standards**  
**TO:** Deans and Presidents of Schools and Colleges of Optometry; Directors of Optometric Residencies; Supervisors of Optometric Residencies; ACOE Consultants; Federal Service Chiefs  
**FROM:** Stephanie S. Messner, O.D., ACOE Chair  
**DIST:** ACOE, Ms. Puljak, Ms. Wirth, Ms. Mohr, Ms. Wynn, Ms. Mittler

At its October 23-25, 2020 Fall Meeting, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) reviewed a request submitted by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for residency programs to inform residents of the specific competencies that the resident is expected to learn and demonstrate prior to completion of the residency program. ACOE Residency Standards 2.1 and 2.4 address the expectation of residents' attainment of advanced competencies upon completion of the program.

After review of the comments received from the communities of interest, at its February 26-28, 2021 Winter Meeting, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) adopted the following addition to examples of evidence for standard 2.1 and standard 2.4 of the 2017 Optometric Residency Standards.

Addition of Examples of Evidence of Standards 2.1 and 2.4 of the 2017 Optometric Residency Standards  
(Wording added to the examples of evidence is underlined)

2.1 The residency must have a written curriculum that includes structured clinical experiences, didactic components and scholarly activities, designed to achieve the mission, goals, and objectives including training in advanced competencies.

**Examples of evidence:**

- *Written curriculum description*
- *Typical weekly schedule of the resident*
- *Description of clinical, didactic and scholarly activities*
- *List of advanced competencies*

2.4 The curriculum must specify the knowledge, skills and behaviors required for the resident to attain the advanced competencies indicated in the program's mission, goals and objectives. At a minimum, the resident must attain the core competencies specified in standards 2.4.1 through 2.4.6 below.

INTENT: The intent of Standard 2.4 is to ensure the residency provides clinical, didactic and scholarly activities that will develop advanced clinical competence, effective communication skills, and lifelong learning skills.

**Examples of evidence:**

- *Written curriculum made available to the resident*
- *List of advanced competencies*

The addition of “List of advanced competencies” to the examples of of evidence provides programs with additional guidance on documentation they may wish to provide to demonstrate compliance with the standards in the program’s self-study. Examples of evidence are meant to be examples of possible relevant documentation rather than an exhaustive list. ***A program may choose to provide some, all, or none of these examples as long as it provides evidence to demonstrate compliance.***

If you have any additional questions, comments or suggestions for the ACOE regarding the 2017 Optometric Residency Standards, please feel free to contact Kim Mohr, ACOE Manager, Residency Programs at [kmohr@aoa.org](mailto:kmohr@aoa.org). The standards and other useful information may be found on the ACOE web site at [www.theacoe.org](http://www.theacoe.org). Over the next few months, the ACOE will be adding this and other resource information to the ACOE web site, and we appreciate your feedback on materials that you would find useful.