

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

November 15, 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 October 14-16, 2022 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:

Classification of "Preliminary Approval" granted following a site visit and subsequent progress report:

A. Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree program (2024). The program was granted the status of Preliminary Approval. Following a site visit in April 2022, the program was issued recommendations to meet Standards II, VI, and VIII. Based on a subsequent progress report, the Council determined that the program has clearly demonstrated it is developing in accordance with Council Standards and found the recommendations to be met. The program now meets the eight standards for Professional Optometric Degree Programs Seeking Preliminary Approval. The program has approval to begin student recruitment, selection and admissions, and to begin offering the program. The ACOE will conduct a site visit in **2024** (if the first class is enrolled in 2023).

2. Initial Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" granted following a site visit:

A. Bradenton VA Outpatient Clinic Residency in Primary Care Optometry with emphasis in Ocular Disease which is affiliated with Nova Southeastern University, 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 Standard 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	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The non-discrimination statement is not included in publications. (5.1.2) Resident clinic schedules are not clearly defined in all publications. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

B. Center for Sight Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Cornea and Contact Lenses which is affiliated with Nova Southeastern University, 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.

C. Huffman & Huffman Eye Care 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 and 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 in part	Some encounters that include both observation and direct care are not logged to include the direct care experience. (2.2.1)
III. Administration	Met in part	The Residency Coordinator and Co-coordinator do not have scheduled dedicated time for administration of the program. (3.4)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

D. Indianapolis Eye Care Center Residency in Vision Rehabilitation with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Indiana University School 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 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 participate in a clinical quality assurance process that includes residency faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

E. InSight Vision Group 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 recommendations to meet Standards II and 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 in part	The resident does not document diagnoses or observational encounters. (2.2.1)
III. Administration	Met in part	The program does not have a clinical quality assurance process in place encompassing residency faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

F. Kaiser Los Angeles Medical Center Residency in Primary Eye Care, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (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.

G. Rochester Regional Health/Reed Eye Associates Residency in Primary Eye Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University (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.

H. University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry with emphases in Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation (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.

3. Continuing Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" continued following a site visit:

A. Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Nova Southeastern 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 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 participate in a clinical quality assurance process involving its faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

B. Center for Vision Development Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry with emphases in Vision Therapy & 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 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 residency faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	

VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	
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C. Cincinnati Eye Institute Residency in Ocular Disease, 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 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	The Co-Coordinator responsible for program administration does not have dedicated time to perform this duty. (3.4)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	Discrepancies exist among publications related to program completion requirements and expected program hours. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

D. Fromer Eye Centers Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Cornea and Contact Lenses and Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with State University of New York 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.

E. Indiana University School of Optometry Residency in Ocular Disease (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:

<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	Residents are not consistently evaluated three times per year. (1.5.4)
II. Curriculum	MET	
III. Administration	MET	
IV. Faculty	MET	
V. Residents	MET IN PART	The program does not publish that it uses non-discrimination policies in resident selection. (5.1.2) The published weekly hours of attendance

		that can be anticipated by prospective residents differs across information sources. (5.1.3) The program does not provide a written academic calendar to the resident. (5.3.9) The program does not provide a written version of the criteria used to assess resident performance in the orientation materials. (5.3.10)
VI. Resources and Facilities	MET	

F. Inter American University of Puerto Rico, 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, II, V and VII. The program will undergo an interim visit in Fall 2025 and all Standard areas will be in scope of the interim visit.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Professional Optometric Degree program 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’s current goals are not published on the school’s website. (1.1.1)
II Curriculum	Met in part	The program's basic science education does not provide the foundation needed for clinical optometric care. (2.6)
III Research and Scholarly Activity	Met	
IV Governance, Regional Accreditation, Administration and Finances	Met	
V Faculty	Met in part	The program has insufficient faculty to meet its stated mission, goals, and objectives. (5.1)
VI Students	Met	
VII Facilities, Equipment and Resources	Met in part	Clinical ophthalmic instruments are not maintained and repaired in a timely manner. (7.1.1)
VIII Clinic Management and Patient Care Policies	Met	

G. Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center Residency in Ocular Disease and Surgical Co-Management with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Pacific 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 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 published list of completion requirements is incomplete. (5.2.6)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

H. Midwestern University Arizona 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards I, IV, and VI.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Professional Optometric Degree program 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	First-time taker pass rates for NBEO Parts I, II, and III are not published by year of test administration. (1.4)
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Research and Scholarly Activity	Met	
IV. Governance, Regional Accreditation, Administration and Finances	Met in part	Evidence of safeguards against the potential for undue influence by private donors over the teaching, clinical, or research components of the program does not exist. (4.7)
V. Faculty	Met	
VI. Students	Met in part	High-level student achievement indicators published on the program’s website lack context needed to assure the accuracy of the representation. (6.6.)
VII. Facilities, Equipment and Resources	Met	
VIII. Clinic Management and Patient Care Policies	Met	

I. Minnesota Eye Consultants Residency in Ocular Disease, Anterior Disease and Glaucoma, which is affiliated with Illinois 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards II and 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 in part	The curriculum does not contain a written supervision policy indicating progressive increasing responsibility. (2.3)
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	Program publications include outdated title references. (5.1.3) The program’s supervision policy is not provided during orientation. (5.3.2)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

J. Oklahoma Medical Eye Group Residency in Ocular Disease with emphasis in Refractive and Ocular Surgery, which is affiliated with Northeastern State University, Oklahoma 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.

K. Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University Residency in Cornea and Contact Lens (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 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	Publications describing the program are inconsistent with respect to the identity of the current Director of On-Campus Residency Programs. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

L. Seidenberg Protzko Eye Associates Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus 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:

<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	Patient logs do not accurately reflect residents' level of involvement in all cases. (2.2.1)
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

M. State University of New York College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lens with emphases in Anterior Segment and Ocular Disease (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.

N. University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg 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, II and VII.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education 2017 Professional Optometric Degree program 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's outcome measures used to evaluate its effectiveness have not been explicitly linked to the achievement of its objectives. (1.3) Annual institutional pass rates for all first-time takers of NBEO Parts I, II, and III are not published by year of administration. (1.4)

II. Curriculum	Met in part	The curriculum management plan does not include an evaluation of all courses with respect to the defined objectives of the program. (2.4)
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 in part	The program does not have a plan for the ongoing replacement of ophthalmic instruments and equipment. (7.1.1)
VIII. Clinic Management and Patient Care Policies	Met	

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. Erdey Searcy Eye Group Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with The Ohio State University College of Optometry (2024). 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. The program is required to submit progress reports related to recommendations to meet Standards I, II, III, IV and V and will undergo a full evaluation visit within 18 months of the accreditation decision.

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 does not consistently evaluate the Residency Coordinator on a semiannual basis. (1.5.2) A reliable process for resident evaluation of each individual core faculty member is not in place. (1.5.3)
II. Curriculum	Met in part	The resident does not participate in self-assessment and the program does not provide consistent feedback to the resident regarding patient care. (2.4.4)
III. Administration	Met in part	Optometrists are limited in their professional autonomy, only permitted to discharge patients associated with post-operative follow-ups. (3.2) The program does not have a process in place to assure the quality of care provided by residency

		faculty. (3.5)
IV. Faculty	Met in part	The program faculty is not consistently available to the resident for consultation, supervision, and teaching during patient care activities. (4.3)
V. Residents	Met in part	Discrepancies exist regarding application requirements and completion requirements among program publications. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

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 and Directories of Programs](#) section.