

# Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation

## Eye Institute of the Rosenberg School of Optometry

Rosenberg School of Optometry  
9725 Datapoint Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78229



Program Coordinator: Stephanie Schmiedecke, OD, FAAO, Dipl, LV  
Program Code: 30922

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Program Mission

The mission of the Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation at the Rosenberg School of Optometry is to provide advanced clinical training in a context of faith and service for post-graduate optometrists with an emphasis on the management of patients with low vision from both congenital and acquired disease, allowing residents upon completion of the program to pursue professional opportunities which require a high level of clinical expertise.

The goals of the program include the following:

- Strengthen the resident's clinical skills and to gain confidence in working with patients presenting with low vision
- Develop the resident's optometric knowledge in low vision rehabilitation and management
- Understand that the needs of patients with visual impairment may require professional collaboration and to coordinate care with the available resources
- Provide the resident with experience in clinical and didactic teaching
- Engage the resident in scholarly activities

<b>Program Length</b>	12 months (53 weeks)
<b>Start Date</b>	July 1st
<b>Positions</b>	1
<b>Compensation</b>	\$33,600
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	40
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	Accredited
<b>Application Deadline</b>	January 30
<b>ORMatch Matching Service</b>	Yes

#### Program Description

The resident will provide optometric care to patients with a diverse range of conditions in the Vision Rehabilitation Center, the clinical partnership between with the Eye Institute of the Rosenberg School of Optometry and the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired. The emphasis will be on

developing the skills and confidence necessary in the management of low vision patients resulting from congenital and acquired ocular disease. The resident will also have the opportunity to see patients in the Eye Institute's Clinics located throughout San Antonio. The resident shall also have opportunities to participate in a variety of didactic and seminar programs on topics related to clinical optometry.

### **About the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired**

The San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 1933. It provides rehabilitation services as well as employment for the blind in its light manufacturing assembly plant. Their mission is to empower the blind and the visually impaired. They employ over 500 employees in a 70,000 square foot manufacturing and rehabilitation facility, with more than half of their employees having low vision.

The rehabilitation programs at the SALB provide services for children and adults. The Blind Children's Education Program offers children the opportunity to learn in a creative, supportive environment. The SALB Rehabilitation Center provides vocational training, technology training, and independent living rehabilitation services to increase the independence of individuals with low vision and/or other disabilities. The Vision Rehabilitation Center is a state of the art 4,000 square foot clinic. The low vision team is dedicated to low vision with each having a low vision residency and/or Diplomate in the American Academy of Optometry. Observation rooms provide an opportunity for more clinic exposure and training.

### **Educational Opportunities**

The resident has direct supervised patient care experiences in low vision and primary care. They also have participation in seminars and journal clubs. The resident is encouraged to attend UIW RSO sponsored continuing education events and national optometric conferences. In addition, close interaction with clinical faculty in varied clinical settings provides the resident with enhanced clinical skills and knowledge base.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

1. Candidates must earn the degree of Doctor of Optometry from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education prior to the starting date of the residency.
2. Candidates must have passed the NBEO Part I and have taken Part II by the application deadline. The selected candidate must have passed Part II and be scheduled to sit for Part III.
3. Candidates must be eligible to be licensed as a therapeutic optometrist in the State of Texas and obtain their license prior to or within the first month of residency.
4. Candidates must receive full unrestricted clinical privileges at the Eye Institute of the Rosenberg School of Optometry.

### **Certificate of Completion**

A certificate of completion will be awarded to the resident upon satisfactory completion of residency requirements. The completion requirements of the program are:

- Completed publishable quality paper to a peer reviewed journal (research paper, literature review, case report)

- Submission of a poster or paper presentation at one of the national optometric conferences
- Deliver one presentation on an optometric topic
- Submission of all residency evaluation forms (activity logs, exit evaluations, etc.)
- The resident is qualified to see patients independently under the Rosenberg School of Optometry Resident Supervision policy
- Successful completion of NBEO Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3

## **RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE**

### **Scholarly Activities**

One of the goals of the residency is to set the candidate up so that upon the completion of the residency, the work done can be used for applying for fellowship with the American Academy of Optometry. While it is not a requirement of the residency to become a fellow, it is felt that the work done in the residency should help to propel the candidate into excellence. So, by the end of the residency, the resident is required to write at least one paper of publishable quality, present a poster or paper presentation at the American Academy of Optometry, or other national meeting, and present at least 1 presentation on an optometric topic (i.e., at Residency Day). The resident will also participate in journal club, grand rounds, and seminar programs.

### **Lecturing and Teaching**

The resident is required to make one presentation on an optometric topic. This may take any of several possible forms, including a faculty seminar, continuing education lecture, guest lecture in an optometry course, in addition to either a paper or poster presentation at an academic meeting. The resident will also participate in the education of optometry students in laboratory as well as the low vision and primary care clinics of the school.

### **Clinical Privileges**

Residents must apply for and be granted clinical privileges by the UIW Eye Institute to be able to participate in the residency program. Residents are required to be supervised as per the Rosenberg School of Optometry Resident Supervision Policy. The Residency Program Supervisor must evaluate and monitor the resident's level of training, which determines the resident's privileges.

### **Continuing Education**

Residents are able to attend continuing education sponsored by the Rosenberg School of Optometry at no charge for credit hours. The resident is encouraged to attend at least one major national educational meeting during the year. A \$1000 travel stipend is available to the resident to help defray the cost of attending a national educational conference.

## WORKSITE

The resident will typically work at the Vision Rehabilitation Center located at the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired. Other clinics that the resident may attend include the UIW Eye Institute and its affiliated clinics in the San Antonio area, including the Bowden Eye and Health Care Institute, etc. The resident may also have an opportunity to rotate through various external specialty clinics over the course of the residency program.

### Employment Benefits

The resident receives employment benefits through the University of the Incarnate Word. These include health insurance, professional liability insurance, paid vacation, paid holidays and paid sick leave. Residents receive 80 hours paid vacation leave and 40 hours paid sick leave per year. There are also 9 paid holidays annually. In addition, residents receive 5 days of professional leave and a \$1000 travel stipend to assist with attending a national optometric conference.

### Application Procedure

Application is through the Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch)

1. Visit ORMatch website <http://www.natmatch.com/ormatch> and submit your application
2. Contact the program coordinator to state your interest in applying
3. Send your curriculum vitae and brief letter of interest regarding your desire to complete this residency program to the program coordinator **no later than February 1**.
4. Arrange to have the following sent to the program coordinator by February 1:
  - a. Official transcripts from optometry school
  - b. Official NBEO transcript
  - c. Minimum of three letters of recommendation from clinical faculty familiar with the clinical abilities of the applicant
5. On site interviews/video conference will be conducted based upon the quality of the credentials and application information
6. After completing the interview process, complete the ORMatch Applicant's Ranking Form. Be sure to submit this on or before the ORMatch designated deadline.

## CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

For additional information about this residency opportunity, please contact:

### **Stephanie Schmiedecke, OD, FAAO, Dipl LV**

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