Choosing Fourth Year Externships

Every experience at New England College of Optometry helps you forge your path towards success. Clinical externships are an integral part of this journey. Trust us!

Focus on Your Goals
Your final year is comprised of full-time clinical rotations spanning 12 months. These experiences provide you with a diverse set of patient experiences and a chance to become familiar with a wide range of optometric practice settings.

Remember Core Requirements
Students typically rotate through four types of clinical assignments: Community Health Center, Ocular Disease (typically at a VA Medical Center), Specialty Care, and an elective rotation.

Identify Interests for Specialty Care
Specialty Care can include placements focusing on vision therapy, pediatrics, specialty contact lenses, low vision or a combination of experiences. What specialty interests you?

Choose an Elective
Electives can include private optometry practices, additional opportunities at a VA medical center, military bases, university-affiliated hospitality clinics, and optometry/ophthalmology group practices.

Weigh Your Options
Think about factors like location, mode of practice, specialties, and colleagues when requesting specific rotation sites. Is there extra experience you want to get in a special field or location? Would you like to try a mode of practice you’ve never considered before such as military optometry or group practice?