

Concentration in Pediatrics

New England College of Optometry





A new and unique approach

A specialized optometric education concentrating in pediatrics

Innovation in the delivery of clinical education has been a hallmark of the New England College of Optometry. At the heart of NECO's clinical curriculum is an early and robust clinical experience where students are afforded clinical opportunities with patients of all ages throughout their 4 years at the College. Specifically, pediatric clinical experiences are offered starting in the 1st year with vision screenings and continue through the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year clinical assignments at a variety of clinical venues. By offering new and exciting approaches we not only improve the clinical experience for our students, but also allow them to focus their optometric education and better develop their career path.

A new and unique approach to optometric clinical education is the development of the Pediatric Concentration program. The program delivers stronger pediatric didactic and clinical opportunities, with *faculty mentorship*, throughout the 4 years of a students' optometric education. This more specialized supplemental program offers better preparation for a pediatrics/binocular vision residency and possibly a future career in academia.

There is a robust pediatric community within NECO and the greater Boston area that provides a wealth of pediatric experiences to our students.

The specific goals of the program are:

- To provide an **early and robust exposure** to the pediatric specialty of optometry, both didactically and clinically.
- To better pave the path towards a residency in pediatric optometry and to **graduate highly coveted applicants** in this area.
- To promote better independent learning/decision making skills as well as critical thinking in both **didactic and clinical settings**.
- To expose students to the world of optometric academia, including **clinical research**.





Work in a diversity of clinical pediatric settings:

- **School Based**
- **Hospital Based**
- **Private Practice**
- **Mobile Clinic**
- **Neighborhood Health Center**





Overview of Concentration in Pediatric Program

First Year

- Pediatric Observations (Patient Care I) (Fall Term)
- Application to Program (Start of Spring Term)
- Acceptance to program and Assignment to Pediatric Concentration Mentor (mid-Spring Term)
- Vision Screenings with Pediatric Resident, if possible
- Involvement in Community Vision Screening Events
- Public Health Pediatrics Project
- Mentor Meetings

Second Year

- Pediatric Clinical assignment for the entire year in Mentor's clinic (~4hrs/week)
- Involvement in Community Vision Screening Events
- TIP I: Topics in Pediatrics Seminar Series

Third Year

- TIP II: Topics in Pediatric Seminar Series
- Pediatric Clinical assignment in the sub-specialty areas of Pediatrics, Vision Therapy, or Individuals with Disabilities (1 each term - ~ 4-8 hours/week).
- Involvement in Community Vision Screening Events – Organization of the events with Residents
- Primary Care Clinical Assignment (8-12 hours/week)

Fourth Year

- Enrollment in at least one pediatric specialty rotation (either internal or external)
- Final discussions with mentor about future goals, including application to pediatric residencies, etc.
- Final joint letter of recommendation for those applying to residency
- Graduate with a Concentration in Pediatrics (listed on Transcript)



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