NECO

Center for Eye Care
New England
College of Optometry

New England College of Optometry

Residency in Pediatric Optometry

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Kristen Kerber, MS, OD, FAAO (KerberK@neco.edu)
SITE LOCATIONS: NECO Center for Eye Care - Commonwealth Ave and other affiliated sites in the Boston area
ESTABLISHED: 1997
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: Two

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission of the Residency Program in Pediatric Optometry at the New England College of Optometry is to provide a comprehensive, post-doctoral clinical education program of the highest quality in Pediatric Optometry. The program will prepare the Residents for lifelong success and future leadership roles in pediatric optometric care, scholarship, teaching, and research within the clinical specialty of Pediatric Optometry.

GOALS:

Goal 1: To provide a diverse, advanced clinical experience in Pediatric Optometry

Objectives:

1.1 The Resident(s) will examine and manage a large number of pediatric patients during the course of the residency year.

1.2 The Residents' patient base will be of sufficient diversity to provide a broad-based experience in pediatric optometry cases.

1.3 The resident will develop advanced competency in the evaluation and management of pediatric patients.

Goal 2: To provide the Resident(s) with experience in clinical and didactic teaching to supplement clinical training Objectives:

2.1 To develop the Resident's clinical teaching skills, a portion of the Resident's schedule will include an assistant teaching role involving clinical supervision within the professional optometric program.

2.2 To develop the Resident's academic based teaching skills, a portion of the resident's schedule will include an assistant teaching role in the didactic professional optometric program.

Goal 3: To stimulate life-long learning and academic contributions to the profession by providing the Resident with opportunities for research and other scholarly activity

Objectives:

3.1 The Resident(s) will develop and complete an original research project on a clinical topic during the residency program.

- The resident will present the results of this project as a publishable quality manuscript and in a presentation at the final NECO Residency Conference.

3.2 The Resident(s) will prepare one or more case reports on interesting cases encountered during the residency year.

Goal 4: To prepare the Resident(s) for professional careers with leadership roles in the areas of pediatric optometry and binocular vision through participation in didactic activities

Objectives:

4.1 To provide the Resident(s) with opportunities to expand his/her professional network, each resident will attend the Annual Meeting of American Academy of Optometry (AAO) and/or other national meeting.

4.2 The Resident(s) will participate in additional lectures or conferences as defined by the residency curriculum.

RESIDENCY SCHEDULE:

The Resident is assigned 80% to 90% of the time to direct patient care activities. These assignments are based at the NECO Center for Eye Care practices, but include dedicated time at additional sites, including clinics based at schools, hospitals, and community health centers. The Resident's assignments will average 40 hours per week. The hours will be scheduled Monday through Friday and may include Saturdays. One half day per week will be designated as research and personal development time. The residents will be on call approximately one week per month for the NECO Center for Eye Care Clinics.

Example of Resident Schedule (subject to change):

Resident 1

Monday: Boston Medical Center Pediatric Ophthalmology – Catherine Choi, MD
Tuesday: NECO Center for Eye Care – Katie Green, OD
Wednesday: Boston Children's Hospital – Kathy Miller, OD
Thursday: Boston Medical Center Pediatric Optometry – Jenna Titelbaum, OD
Friday: Perkins School for the Blind – Dr. Jem Martin, OD
Research/Development Alternate Weeks

Resident 2

Monday: Boston Children's Hospital Pediatric Optometry – Aparna Raghuram, OD, PhD
Tuesday: Tufts Medical Center Pediatric Optometry – Nicole Quinn, OD
Wednesday: Vision Screenings AM
Dimock Community Health Center PM – Kristen Kerber, MS, OD

Thursday: Tufts Medical Center Pediatric Ophthalmology – Catherine Choi, MD
Friday: Perkins School for the Blind – Dr. Jem Martin, OD
Research/Development Alternate Weeks

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:

The program will begin July 1 and conclude June 30.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:

The annual stipend is $51,000. In addition, the resident is eligible for health care benefits, 10 days of paid vacation, 5 sick days, 5 conference days, tuition waiver at NECO-sponsored continuing education courses, an educational stipend and professional liability insurance coverage during residency activities at College affiliated sites.

CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION:

1. The resident will attend all scheduled clinic sessions as assigned, complete program related assignments and demonstrate professional conduct at all times.
2. The resident will demonstrate the appropriate clinical skills, expertise, and progress commensurate with the program's mission, goals, and objectives.
3. The resident will attend all formal NECO residency conferences and any other designated educational programs during the year.
4. The resident will complete a scholarly project on subjects to be determined by mutual agreement with the Program Coordinator and submit the corresponding manuscript to the Program Coordinator by the end of the residency year.
5. The resident will maintain an accurate patient log and activity log during the residency year.
6. The resident will complete all program and preceptor evaluations and questionnaires as required in a timely manner.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must have earned a Doctor of Optometry degree from a school or college of optometry with an ACOE accreditation status prior to the onset of the program year.
- International applicants who are authorized to work without sponsorship are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must apply through the Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) application at www.natmatch.com/ormatch. The deadline for submission is January 30. Applications must include the following:
    1. Letter of Intent/Personal Statement
    2. Curriculum vitae
    3. Official optometry school transcript
    4. NBEO scores
    5. Three letters of recommendation
- Applicants ideally have passed all parts of the NBEO prior to the residency start date. Any NBEO exam that has not been passed must be taken and passed prior to the end of the

residency year. Individuals accepted into a residency program should obtain a license to practice optometry as early as possible in the residency year. Massachusetts licensure must be obtained by the end of the residency year in order to obtain a completion certificate.

- Qualified applicants may be invited to an interview with the program faculty. In-person interviews are strongly encouraged and are typically held in February. After completion of the interviews, the residency coordinator and faculty rank the applicants based on their application and interview performance. Emphasis is placed on clinical and academic credentials, letters of recommendation, interpersonal skills and interest in the program. Rankings are submitted to ORMatch by the deadline. All ORMatch rules and processes are followed throughout the application process, match and post-match periods.
- NECO does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veteran status or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 29, 2027

ACCREDITATION STATUS:

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) has granted NECO Residency in Pediatric Optometry the accreditation status of “Accredited.” Accredited is a classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program generally meets the Standards for accreditation. For more information, see the ACOE’s website at www.theACOE.org or contact the ACOE at accredit@theacoe.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Kristen Kerber, MS, OD, FAAO
Program Coordinator
New England College of Optometry
424 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02115
kerberk@neco.edu

OR

Nicole Quinn, OD, FAAO
Director of Residencies
New England College of Optometry
424 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02115
QuinnN@neco.edu
(617) 587-5752