

Archive of Accreditation Actions - July 22, 2019

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](#)

July 22, 2019

At its June 19-22, 2019, 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" continued following a full evaluation visit:

Midwestern University Chicago College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree Program (2020). The program's pre-accreditation classification of **Preliminary Approval** was continued, based on the Council's determination that the program has demonstrated it is developing in accordance with Council standards. The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards II and VIII following a site visit in 2019 and based on a progress report submitted by the program, the Council has determined that the recommendations have been met. The program now fully meets the eight standards for professional optometric degree programs. The Council will conduct a site visit in 2020.

University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree Program (2020). The program's pre-accreditation classification of **Preliminary Approval** was

continued, based on the Council's determination that the program has demonstrated it is developing in accordance with Council standards. The program was issued a recommendation to meet Standard I following a site visit in 2019 and based on a subsequent progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the eight standards for professional optometric degree programs. The Council will conduct a site visit in 2020.

2. Initial Accreditation

Classification of "Accredited" granted following a full site visit:

Columbus Ophthalmology Associates Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with The Ohio State University, College of Optometry (2027). 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.

Doris Miller Veterans Affairs Medical Center Residency in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry (2027). 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 was issued a recommendation to meet Standard II following a site visit in 2019 and based on a subsequent progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Family Eye Care Residency in Vision Therapy and Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation, which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry (2027). 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.

Gundersen Health System Residency in Ocular Disease/Neuro-Optometry, which is affiliated with Indiana University School of Optometry (2027). 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 was issued recommendations to meet Standards I, II and V following a site visit in 2019 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lens (2027). 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.

Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry Residency in Family Practice (2027). 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.

Specialty Eyecare Group Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry (2027). 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 was issued a recommendation to meet Standard III following a site visit in 2019 and based on a subsequent progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Virginia Eyecare Clinic Residency in Family Practice/Ocular Disease with Emphasis on Rural Health Care which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University (2027). 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 was issued recommendations to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2019 and based on a subsequent progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Residency in Primary Eye Care and Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation which is affiliated with Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry (2027). 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 full site visit:

Madison Area Technical College, Optometric Technician program (2027). 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 was issued a recommendation to meet Standard 3 following a site visit in 2019 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the five standards for technician programs.

Marion VAMC Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry (2027). 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.

State University of New York College of Optometry Professional Optometric Degree program (2027). 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 eight standards for professional optometric degree programs.

W G (Bill) Hefner VAMC Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease which is affiliated with Southern College of Optometry (2027). 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 was issued a recommendation to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2019 and based on a progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendation to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

Classification of "Accredited" continued following an interim site visit:

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry, Professional Optometric Degree program (2021). The Council conducted a focused interim site visit to assess Standards I, II and VI. 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 was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and II following an interim site visit in 2019 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the eight standards for professional optometric degree programs..

4. Reconsideration of Accreditation Denial

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 the 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

Tusculum University Niswonger College of Optometry **Professional Optometric Degree program** in Greenville, Tennessee

Definitions

Pre-Accreditation Classification

In the case of a program which is not fully operational, the Council may grant the pre-accreditation status of preliminary approval following satisfaction by the program of the requirements for initial application in Chapter 4 and the Council's review of an evaluation team report following a site visit.

Preliminary Approval—A pre-accreditation 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 the first three academic years of the program through written reports and/or site visits as deemed necessary by the Council. A request for accreditation status shall be made not less than 12 months prior to graduation of the program's first class. As required by the USDE, the Council will not grant pre-accreditation 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 pre-accreditation 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 on-site evaluation visit within a prescribed period of: one year for programs that are less than one year in length; 18 months for programs that are at least one year in length but less than two years in length; and two years for programs that are more than two years in length.