

Recent accreditation actions and decisions of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)

November 23, 2021

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](#)

At its October 22-24, 2021 virtual meeting, 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.)

Visits that were conducted virtually are indicated; a follow-up on-site visit will be conducted within a reasonable timeframe.

1. Preaccreditation Actions: None

2. Initial Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" granted following a site visit:

A. (Virtual) Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health Inc. Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2029). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standard V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met	

II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The resident's compensation, health, professional, and leave benefits, requirements for residency completion, program start and end dates, and significant program deadlines are not consistent in all program publications and websites. (5.1.3) The expected weekly hours of the residents' attendance are not published. (5.2.2)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

3. Continuing Accreditation:

Classification of "Accredited" continued following a site visit:

A. (Virtual) BronxCare Health System Residency in Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry which is affiliated with State University of New York College of Optometry (2029). 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 fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

B. (Virtual) Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses (2029). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards I and III.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met in part	The program has not made meaningful modifications associated with its annual review process to address the deficiency in primary care encounters which continue to fall below the outcome measure. (1.6)
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met in part	The list of residency completion requirements does not fully encompass the required elements listed in the program's goals and objectives. (3.6)
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

C. (Virtual) Gallup Indian Medical Center, Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care with an emphasis in Ocular Disease which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2029). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards I and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met in part	Goal 5 does not have assessable objectives. (1.3)
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met	Admission eligibility criteria related to NBEO passage requirements are inconsistent among program publications. (5.1)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

D. (Virtual) Pacific University College of Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation (2029). 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 is required to report on its progress related to a recommendation to meet Standard V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met	
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The residency’s academic calendar does not indicate the start date and end date for the program nor does it include the due date for the required publishable quality manuscript. (5.3.9)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

E. (Virtual) VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics Residency in Primary Eye Care/ Ocular Disease which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry (2029). 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 is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standards I, II and V.

Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Residency Accreditation Standards:

Standard	Level of Compliance	Reason for met in part or not met
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met in part	The program has not defined a plan for the resident to achieve Goal 4, Objective 1 concerning resident's enhanced understanding of the effect of military service on Veterans' health. (1.4)
II. Curriculum	Met in part	The supervision policies described in the Residency Manual and Supplemental Policies Manual are inconsistent. (2.3) The resident does not engage in self-assessment. (2.4.4)
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The published residency websites do not accurately represent the program regarding completion requirements and publications inaccurately describe resident's privileging. (5.1.3)
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

4. Reconsideration of Accreditation Denial: None

5. Withdrawal of accreditation by ACOE:

Accreditation withdrawn* following submission of the annual report:

- **Marion VAMC Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease**, which is affiliated with University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry
- **Virginia Eyecare Clinic Residency in Primary Care with emphases in Family Practice and Ocular Disease**, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University

**The decision to withdraw accreditation becomes final thirty (30) days after the date the program was notified of the decision if no written petition for reconsideration or request for appeal is received.*

6. Voluntary withdrawal of accreditation: None

Note: In addition to the above accreditation actions, the ACOE also reviewed the following program(s) applying for 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

- None
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Definitions

Preaccreditation Classification: In the case of a program which is not fully operational, the Council may grant the preaccreditation status of Preliminary Approval following satisfaction by the program of the requirements for initial application as outlined in the ACOE's Policy and Procedure Manual and the Council's review of an evaluation team report following a site visit.

Preliminary Approval: A preaccreditation 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 each academic year of the program through written reports and/or evaluation visits as deemed necessary by the Council. The Council will conduct a final on-site evaluation visit to the program for the consideration of an accreditation status during the academic year in which the first class is expected to graduate. If the program is found to meet the Council's Standards, then the Council will grant an appropriate accreditation status. As required by the USDE, the Council will not grant preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation 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 evaluation visit within two (2) years for professional optometric degree programs, eighteen (18) months for optometric residencies, and one (1) year for optometric technician programs.

The ACOE Policies and Procedure Manual may be found in the [Accreditation Resources](#) section.