Southern College of Optometry Pediatric and Vision Therapy Residencies

Founded in Memphis, Tennessee in 1932, Southern College of Optometry (SCO) ranks as one of the nation’s leading institutions of optometric education. Students and faculty enjoy the opportunity to learn and practice optometry in the Eye Center, one of the largest and most decidedly advanced eye-care centers in the nation. Our students benefit from hands-on learning as they accompany faculty on community outreach initiatives at school vision screenings and regional health care settings. SCO residents even travel abroad to take care of those in need around the globe. Following graduation, we encourage our students to use their knowledge by participating in a residency. Our residency program has grown exponentially since it began 40 years ago. There are currently 22 programs and affiliations across the country. We are proud of the variety of programs ranging from primary care to ocular disease to vision therapy.

The largest growth area in the SCO residency program comes in the areas of pediatric and vision therapy. There are eight residency slots in two programs. Two college-based programs, Pediatrics and Vision Therapy/Low Vision are available. While working at SCO, the resident will have the opportunity to learn and practice optometry in The Eye Center, one of the largest and most clinically advanced eye-care facilities in the nation. Our students benefit from hands-on learning as they learn and practice optometry in The Eye Center, one of the largest and most clinically advanced eye-care facilities in the nation.

Dr. Leonard J. Press, who is a Past President of COVD, former Chief of Vision Therapy Services at the Vision and Learning Center authored the textbook, Clinical Concepts in Vision Therapy which is required in Dr. Habermehl’s training emphasis is on acquiring skills necessary for advanced competency and financial management in vision therapy. Residents work in The Eye Center, one of the largest and most advanced eye-care facilities in the nation. Our students benefit from hands-on learning as they learn and practice optometry in The Eye Center, one of the largest and most clinically advanced eye-care facilities in the nation.

As an employee of Appelbaum Eye Care Associates, the PCP will gain experience working with adults, special patients, developmentally disabled, general binocular and visual movement disorders, complex Strabismus and Amblyopia as well as patients with visual/verbal learning disabilities, vision processing deficits, attention, reading specialists, vision deficits, developmental delays, speech, vision, balance, movement, attention, and coordination disorders.

The mission of the Residency in Child and Family Optometry is to give the graduate all the tools necessary to work with children and young adults in the field of vision therapy and integrating it into primary care setting. The resident will gain advanced skills in clinical, social, and business aspects of optometry. Graduates of the residency will be uniquely suited to successful private practice.

The vision therapy programs of Southern College of Optometry offer hands-on learning as residents gain skills in communication, marketing, and business. Our unique program is expanded through our collaboration with the management of Strabismus and Amblyopia, visually-related learning problems, stroke, head trauma, and rehabilitation, as well as developing skills in communication, marketing, and business.

The Residency in Vision Rehabilitation offers the resident the following opportunities: residents work with other optometric specialties including contact lens, pediatrics and ocular disease, as well as physicians, educators, and other professionals in a diverse array of clinical and educational settings. This program offers a full and appropriate transition to the resident’s needs and desires.

The Residency in Vision Pediatrics offers a rich resident the following opportunities: residents work with other optometric specialties including contact lens, pediatrics and ocular disease, as well as physicians, educators, and other professionals in a diverse array of clinical and educational settings. This program offers a full and appropriate transition to the resident’s needs and desires.