



Residency Programs 2026|27

 SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Residency programs provide recent graduates with additional opportunities to greatly expand their clinical knowledge and skills. Southern College of Optometry (SCO) provides residency programs in: Ocular Disease, Pediatric Optometry, Primary Care Optometry, Vision Rehabilitation, and Cornea and Contact Lenses. Several programs have additional areas of emphasis.

Most SCO in-house residencies are 12.5 months in length and typically begin July 1st. Some programs offer more than one position. Residents are provided an annual stipend and receive professional liability insurance and other benefits.

Residency programs at SCO provide enhanced opportunities to attain advanced knowledge in specialty areas of interest, to develop clinical expertise in the diagnosis and management of difficult patient problems, to conduct clinical research, to interact with highly experienced faculty in all clinical areas and to interact with residents in other programs.

SCO in-house and affiliated residency programs are accredited by the ACOE, <https://theacoe.org>, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141, 314-991-4100.

Bond-Wroten Eye Clinic DENHAM SPRINGS, LA	Primary Care Optometry/Ocular Disease/Family Practice Optometry (2)	Chris Wroten, OD cwroten@od.sco.edu
Bowersox Vision Center, PSC SHELBYVILLE, KY	Pediatric Optometry/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation (1)	Stuart Young, OD dr.sbyoung@gmail.com
Children's Hospital Colorado AURORA, CO	Pediatric Optometry/Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry (1)	Melissa Engle, OD melissa.engle@childrescolorado.org
Draisin Vision Group CHARLESTON, SC	Vision Rehabilitation/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation/Pediatric Optometry (1)	Jennie Smith-Zolman, OD jenniesmithod@yahoo.com
Duke University Eye Center DURHAM, NC	Pediatric Optometry/Ocular Disease (1)	Nathan Cheung, OD Nathan.cheung@duke.edu
Eyecare Professionals HAMILTON SQUARE, NJ	Vision Rehabilitation/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation/Pediatric Optometry (2)	Barry Tannen, OD drt@eyecareprofessionals.com
Family Eyecare Associates FAIR LAWN, NJ	Vision Rehabilitation/Pediatric Optometry (1)	Laura Knapp, OD drknapp@pressvision.com
Georgia Eye Partners ATLANTA, GA	Ocular Disease/Cornea and Contact Lenses/Refractive and Ocular Surgery (4)	Alden Negaard, OD alden.negaard@gaeyepartners.com
Greenville VA Outpatient Clinic GREENVILLE, SC	Primary Care Optometry/Ocular Disease (1)	Monica Jezior, OD Monica.Jezior2@va.gov
James H. Quillen Mountain Home VAMC MOUNTAIN HOME, TN	Primary Care Optometry/Ocular Disease (2)	Loren Bennett, OD loren.bennett@va.gov
Louisiana Family Eyecare COVINGTON, LA	Ocular Disease/Refractive and Ocular Surgery (1)	Amy Puerto, OD dramy@lafamilyeyecare.com Jeff Anastasio, OD drjeff@lafamilyeyecare.com
Memphis VAMC MEMPHIS, TN	Ocular Disease (6)	Catherine Hogan, OD catherine.hogan@va.gov
Moyes Eye Center LEE'S SUMMIT, MO	Ocular Disease/Refractive and Ocular Surgery (1)	Qadium Qayum, OD qqayum@moyeseye.com
MyVisionFirst ANNAPOLIS, MD BETHESDA, MD	Vision Rehabilitation/Pediatric Optometry Emphasis (1) Vision Rehabilitation/Pediatric Optometry Emphasis (1)	Bryce Appelbaum, OD drb@myvisionfirst.com
Paul Vision Institute WILMINGTON, NC	Vision Rehabilitation/Low Vision Rehabilitation/Ocular Disease (1)	Edward Paul, OD epauljr@aol.com
Ralph H. Johnson VAMC CHARLESTON, SC	Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry (2)	Kelly Singleton, OD Kelly.Singleton2@va.gov
Salem VAMC SALEM, VA	Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry (2)	Alicia Brown, OD alicia.brown1@va.gov

The Eye Center at SCO/Eye Specialty Group MEMPHIS, TN	Cornea and Contact Lenses/Anterior Segment/Refractive and Ocular Surgery (1)	<i>Laurel Kelley, OD laurelkelley@sco.edu</i>
The Eye Center at SCO MEMPHIS, TN	Vision Rehabilitation/Brain Injury Rehabilitation/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation (1)	<i>Marc Taub, OD mtaub@sco.edu</i>
The Eye Center at SCO MEMPHIS, TN	Pediatric Optometry/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation (3)	<i>Pamela Schnell, OD pschnell@sco.edu</i> <i>Marc Taub, OD mtaub@sco.edu</i>
W.G. Hefner VAMC SALISBURY, NC	Ocular Disease (7)	<i>Jeffrey Joy, OD Jeffrey.joy1@va.gov</i>
WJB Dorn VAMC COLUMBIA, SC	Primary Care Optometry/Ocular Disease (3)	<i>Tony Van Alstine, OD Anthony.VanAlstine@va.gov</i>
Woolfson Eye Institute ATLANTA, GA	Ocular Disease/Refractive and Ocular Surgery (3)	<i>Tom Spetalnick, OD tom@woolfsoneye.com</i> <i>Lauren Dyak, OD ldyak@woolfsoneye.com</i>
Wow Vision Therapy ST. JOSEPH, MI	Vision Rehabilitation/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation/Pediatric Optometry (1)	<i>Dan Fortenbacher, OD dfortenbacher@wowvision.net</i>
Wow Vision Therapy GRAND RAPIDS, MI	Vision Rehabilitation/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation/Pediatric Optometry (1)	<i>Alyssa Parz, OD aparz@wowvision.net</i>

Admissions

The SCO Residency Committee reviews all applications to be considered for admission. The applicant must:

1. have earned an O.D. degree by the time of matriculation from an ACOE accredited school or college of optometry;
2. have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in the optometry professional curriculum;
3. furnish complete transcripts of all optometric education;
4. take and pass all parts of the National Board Examinations, and furnish results of these examinations;
5. provide three letters of recommendation;
6. be eligible for licensure as described in the program policies; and
7. have an interview with the supervisor of the program.

All residency applications will be evaluated without regard to sex, race, color, creed, age, national origin, or disabilities.



Cheryl E. Mengelt, OD

Director of Externship and Residency Programs

After completing her residency, Dr. Cheryl Mengelt worked for Lifesigns, Inc. in Memphis, Tennessee before returning to the Southern College of Optometry as a full-time faculty member in 1998. She was promoted to associate professor in 2009. Dr. Mengelt served as Coordinator of Community Outreach for The Eye Center. Dr. Mengelt has also provided didactic instruction in various lecture and laboratory courses. She has been twice named Didactic Teacher of the Year. She is responsible for the Externship and Residency programs for the College.

Dr. Mengelt's professional clinical areas of interest include adult primary care and ocular disease management.

Dr. Mengelt is a member of the American Optometric Association (AOA), Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians, and the West Tennessee Optometric Physician's Society. She has been a clinical and senior examiner for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry since 1999 and as the Assistant Site Director for the Memphis exam since 2008. She has served as Southern College of Optometry's AOA Healthy Eyes for Healthy People representative, chaired the Faculty Affairs Committee for several terms and has also served the faculty in the capacity of Secretary and Vice-Chair. Dr. Mengelt has been certified as a CPR Instructor through the American Red Cross and provides CPR training to the SCO third and fourth year students



Jennifer A. Sanderson, OD

Assistant Director of Residency Programs

Dr. Sanderson, a London, Ontario native, is a professor at Southern College of Optometry where she supervises the primary care examinations of patients in the affiliated eye center. She assists in the second year anterior and posterior segment laboratories, teaches in a theory and method lab and is the instructor of record in a class that focuses on various diseases in a clinically relevant manner. She is the Assistant Director of Residency Programs.

Dr. Sanderson is a member of the American Optometric Association, Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians and West Tennessee Optometric Physicians Society. She is a consultant to the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, and is a regular instructor of the Injections Workshop held at the annual meeting.

