



# Optometry's Residency Model

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# Profession of Optometry

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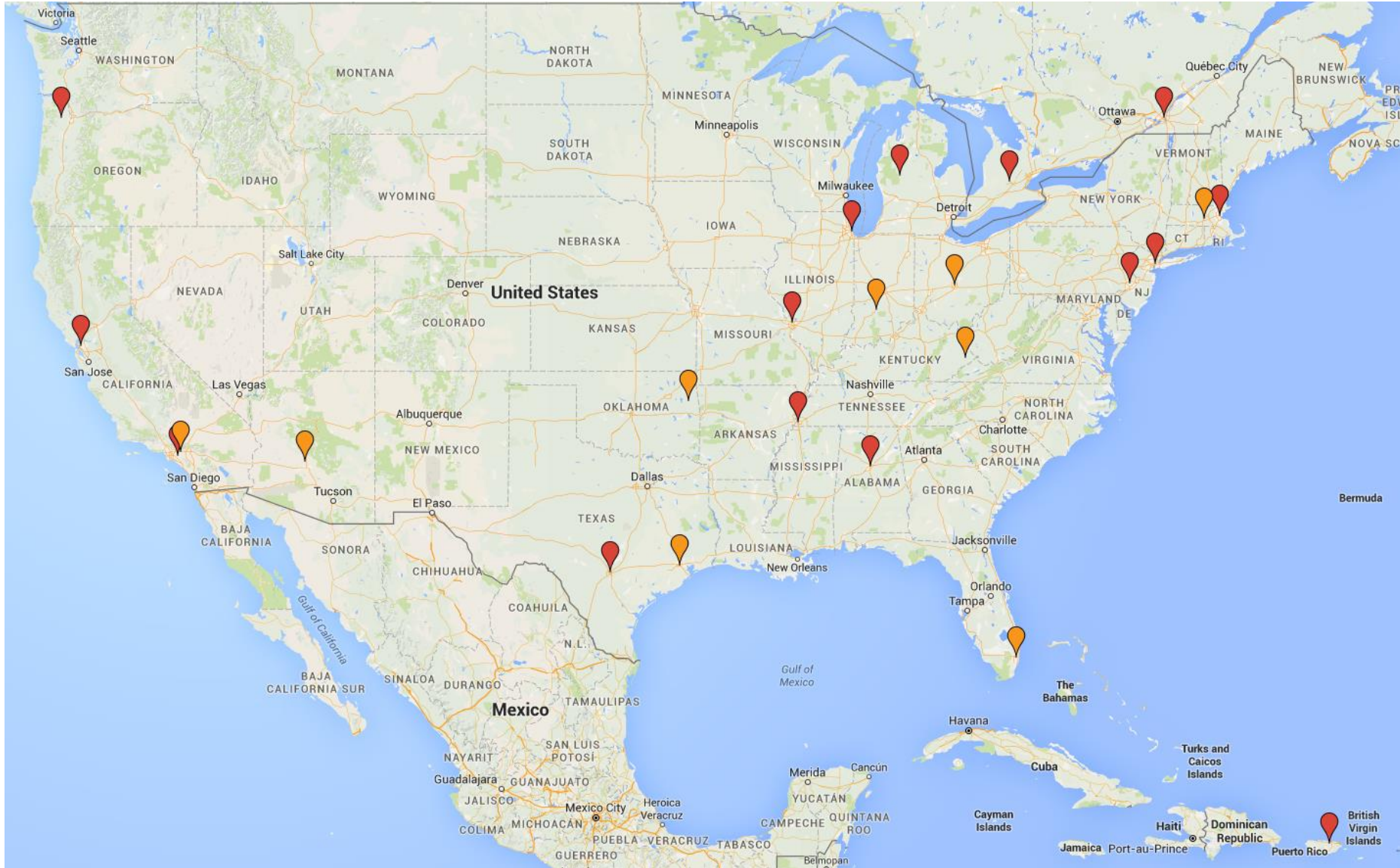
- Function as Primary Eye Care providers
- Independent providers
- Held to the same standard as other regulated health care providers under Medicare
- Licensed to diagnose and treat ocular disease in all states
- Licensed for laser procedures and anterior eye surgery in some states
- Scope of practice is state regulated

# Optometric Education

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- Four-year doctoral level degree
- 22 Schools and Colleges of Optometry in US
- Approximately 7,000 students enrolled in 2015-16
- In 2015, there were 1,557 graduates
- Accreditation through the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)

# Schools and Colleges of Optometry in the United States



# Optometry

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- Eligible to obtain license to practice at the point of graduation
- National Board of Examiners licensing body
- Scope of Practice state regulated
- Residency Certification is optional

# Residency Programs

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- Optional to practice Optometry
- Evolved to expand scope of professional practice and address specialty care in optometry
- First program in '67 in vision therapy at SUNY
- First formally recognized program was in Low Vision at Kansas City VA (1976)
- Programs required to be Advanced Clinical Training
- Required for some positions: faculty appointments, federal positions

# Residency programs- continued

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- Generally, one year in duration
- Requires beyond entry level clinical and didactic components
- Program funding by schools and colleges of optometry; Veterans Administration, military or other institutions
- No funding from Graduate Medical Education

# Residency programs- continued

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Primary focus of various programs:

primary care, pediatrics, low vision rehabilitation, ocular disease, refractive and ocular surgery, geriatrics, vision therapy and rehabilitation, cornea and contact lenses, community health, brain injury vision rehabilitation, and neurophthalmic disorders.



# Residency Education

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- 18/22 Schools have residency programs
- More than 200 programs
- ~400 residency slots available (~ 1,600 graduates):  
~ 25% available positions
  
- 48% are in Veterans Administration programs
- 22% are residencies in optometry clinics
- 30% are in external institutions
- All programs required to have academic affiliate
- Accredited by ACOE

# Residency accreditation

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- There are 6 standards for accreditation
- Standards address:
  - Mission, goals, objectives outcomes, program improvement;
  - Curriculum
  - Faculty
  - Administration
  - Resources and Facilities
- Self Study and site visit are required for accreditation status
- Accreditation Council on Optometric Education site  
<http://www.aoa.org/optometrists/for-educators/accreditation-council-on-optometric-education>

# Thank You !

## **Additional Information:**

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