

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2019

SUBJECT: **Clarification of 5.1.1 of 2017 Optometric Residency Standards**

TO: Deans and Presidents of Schools and Colleges of Optometry; Directors of Optometric Residencies; Supervisors of Optometric Residencies; ACOE Consultants; Federal Service Chiefs

FROM: Darin L. Paulson, O.D., ACOE Chair

DIST: ACOE, Ms. Urbeck, Ms. Wirth, Ms. Scaletty, Ms. Evans, Ms. Mittler

Several programs have been cited/found out of compliance with standard 5.1.1 of the Optometric Residency Standards that became effective on July 1, 2017. At its February 22-24, 2019 Winter Meeting, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) adopted the following clarification for standard 5.1.1 of the 2017 Optometric Residency Standards. The Council has requested that I provide this information to programs, site visit teams and other interested parties.

Statement of Clarification for Standard 5.1.1 of the 2017 Optometric Residency Standards which become effective on July 1, 2017

5.1.1 Admissions eligibility criteria must include the requirement that prior to matriculation applicants must have attained the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.

Residency programs must publish their selection procedures including admission eligibility criteria which must be provided to applicants when requested. Language pertaining to the school or college of optometry that applicants attained their Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree from must specify that the O.D. degree attained from the school or college of optometry is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education. This language is required to be maintained accurately across all publications, websites and printed materials provided to interested applicants. Hence, the Council is requesting that all residency programs ensure they have updated all websites, publications and printed materials to specify the language above. Programs with annual reports due in September 2019 will be requested to provide evidence to the Council that these changes have been made in all publications. Those who are exempt from an annual report in 2019 will be evaluated on this standard through their self-study and on-site evaluation.

I hope that you find this clarification to be useful. If you have any additional questions, comments or suggestions for the ACOE regarding the 2017 Optometric Residency Standards, please feel free to contact me at the address above or Fiza Scaletty, ACOE Manager, Residency Programs at fscaletty@aoa.org. For your information, a crosswalk comparison of the new standards with the existing standards may be found on the ACOE web site at www.theacoe.org, or by [clicking here](#). Over the next few months, the ACOE will be adding this and other resource information to the ACOE web site, and we will appreciate your feedback on materials that you would find useful.