DATE: January 12, 2022

SUBJECT: Residency Specialty and Areas of Emphasis

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

FROM: Stephanie S. Messner, O.D., ACOE Chair

DIST: ACOE, Ms. Puljak, Ms. Wirth, Ms. Mohr, Ms. Martin

Several programs have updated the specialty and/or area(s) of emphasis of optometric residencies. At its October 22-24, 2021 Meeting, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) adopted the following clarification for changes to the specialty and/or area(s) of emphasis of optometric residency programs.

Statement of Clarification for Residency Specialty and Areas of Emphasis

The primary specialty identified in the title of the residency program must be reflected in its mission, goals and objectives; any emphasis area must be reflected in the goals, objectives and curriculum of the program.

I hope that you find this clarification to be useful. If you have any additional questions, comments or suggestions for the ACOE regarding the specialty and/or area(s) of emphasis for optometric residency programs, please contact:

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For more information regarding substantive changes, which include the change of program specialty and/or area(s) of emphasis, please review the ACOE Policy & Procedure Manual available at www.theACOE.com.