

These training requirements apply to those who begin training on or after July 1, 2023.

The following training experiences are required, recommended, or optional as indicated.

TRANSITION TO DISCIPLINE (TTD)

The purpose of this stage is orientation to the program, the clinical learning environment, and the university, and to the resources that will help guide the resident's training. This stage also establishes a baseline for learning by assessing the resident's knowledge and skills; trainees are expected to perform a basic ophthalmic history and physical, including slit lamp examination and fundoscopy.

Required training experiences (TTD stage):

1. Clinical training experiences
 - 1.1. Adult ophthalmology clinic
2. Other training experiences
 - 2.1. Orientation to the program and university, including policies and procedures, resident wellness resources, learning resources, the ophthalmology portfolio, and the assessment system
 - 2.2. Orientation to the hospital(s), including policies and procedures, information systems and, as applicable, electronic medical records, and local and provincial legal requirements related to ophthalmology care
 - 2.3. Self-study and completion of course self-evaluation sections of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Basic and Clinical Science Course
 - 2.3.1. Update on General Medicine
 - 2.3.2. Fundamentals and Principles of Ophthalmology
 - 2.4. Attendance at ophthalmology academic half day
 - 2.5. Completion of Basic Cardiac Life Support course, or equivalent

FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE (F)

The purpose of this stage is to develop the resident's fundamental knowledge and skills in medicine and surgery to assess and provide initial management of patients presenting with a broad range of common presentations relevant to Ophthalmology. At the end of this stage, the resident should be able to perform focused ophthalmic assessments, recognize abnormal findings in diagnostic assessments, and formulate management plans for vision- or life-threatening as well as common acute ophthalmic presentations.

Required training experiences (Foundations stage):

1. Clinical training experiences
 - 1.1. Ophthalmology, adult and pediatric, including
 - 1.1.1. Clinic
 - 1.1.2. Consultation service to inpatient units and the emergency department
 - 1.1.3. After-hours coverage
 - 1.2. Internal medicine inpatient ward, including after-hours coverage
 - 1.3. Adult emergency department
 - 1.4. Adult neurology inpatient ward, consultation service, or clinic, and after-hours coverage
2. Other training experiences
 - 2.1. Formal instruction in
 - 2.1.1. Recognition, assessment, and treatment of vision- or life- threatening presentations
 - 2.1.2. Use of ophthalmic diagnostic investigations
 - 2.2. Attendance at ophthalmology academic half day
 - 2.3. Completion of the Toronto Ophthalmology Resident Introductory Course (TORIC)
 - 2.4. Completion of Advanced Cardiac Life Support course, or equivalent
 - 2.5. Attendance and participation in departmental academic events, including grand rounds and research day
 - 2.6. Self-study of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Basic and Clinical Science Course
 - 2.7. Critical appraisal activities, such as journal club

Recommended training experiences (Foundations stage):

3. Clinical training experiences
 - 3.1. Ophthalmology
 - 3.1.1. Operating room
 - 3.1.2. Minor treatment room
 - 3.2. Pediatrics clinic or emergency department
 - 3.3. Endocrinology clinic

- 3.4. Rheumatology clinic
 - 3.5. Plastic surgery clinic, minor procedures, and operating room
 - 3.6. Otolaryngology-head and neck surgery clinic, minor procedures, and operating room
 - 3.7. Dermatology clinic
 - 3.8. Family medicine clinic
 - 3.9. Neuroradiology
4. Other training experiences
 - 4.1. Formal instruction in communication skills
 - 4.2. Simulation or wet lab training, or both, for procedures

Optional training experiences (Foundations stage):

5. Clinical training experiences
 - 5.1. Aesthetic oculoplastic surgery

CORE OF DISCIPLINE (C)

In this stage, residents experience all aspects of Ophthalmology with patients of all ages. Residents build on the broad base of knowledge and skills acquired in Foundations to add abilities related to the assessment and diagnosis of the breadth of ophthalmic presentations and management using all available treatment modalities. Residents will perform the procedural skills required for practice in Ophthalmology. In addition to their clinical responsibilities, they will undertake scholarly projects and participate in teaching and clinical administrative roles.

Required training experiences (Core stage):

1. Clinical training experiences
 - 1.1. Ophthalmology across the breadth of presentations, including the domains of external disease and cornea, glaucoma, uveitis, retina and vitreous disorders, neuro-ophthalmology, oculoplastic and orbital disorders, and pediatric ophthalmology
 - 1.1.1. General or emergency clinic
 - 1.1.2. Specialized clinics in each of the domains
 - 1.1.3. Consultation service to inpatient units and the emergency department
 - 1.1.4. Minor treatment room
 - 1.1.5. Laser therapy
 - 1.1.6. Operating room
 - 1.1.7. After-hours coverage
2. Other training experiences
 - 2.1. Formal instruction in
 - 2.1.1. Clinical and basic sciences of Ophthalmology

- 2.1.2. Optics, including biometry, refraction, and refractive surgery
- 2.1.3. Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- 2.2. Attendance at ophthalmology academic half day
- 2.3. Attendance and participation in departmental academic events, including grand rounds and research day
- 2.4. Simulation or wet lab training, or both, for procedures
- 2.5. Self-study of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Basic and Clinical Science Course
- 2.6. Review of resident logbook of cataract surgery cases and surgical outcomes
- 2.7. Initiation and development of a scholarly project
- 2.8. Critical appraisal activities, such as journal club
- 2.9. Supervision and teaching of medical students and junior residents
- 2.10. Quality assurance and improvement activities, such as morbidity and mortality rounds, and preparation and presentation of a quality assurance or continuous quality improvement project
- 2.11. Career counselling

Recommended training experiences (Core stage):

- 3. Clinical training experiences
 - 3.1. Ophthalmology
 - 3.1.1. Specialized clinics in ocular oncology
 - 3.1.2. Refractive surgery, i.e., laser and clear lens extraction
 - 3.1.3. Minimally invasive glaucoma surgery
 - 3.1.4. Low vision rehabilitation experience
 - 3.1.5. Community setting
 - 3.1.6. Outreach to rural or remote settings
 - 3.2. Ocular pathology
 - 3.3. Electrophysiology
 - 3.4. Training with an orthoptist
- 4. Other training experiences
 - 4.1. Formal instruction in
 - 4.1.1. Communication skills
 - 4.1.2. Teaching skills
 - 4.1.3. Leadership
 - 4.1.4. Ethics
 - 4.2. Presentation of a poster or abstract at a national or international scientific meeting relevant to Ophthalmology
 - 4.3. Attendance at the annual scientific meeting of the Canadian Ophthalmology Society

- 4.4. Participation in administrative activities relevant to the program, the hospital, or the specialty, such as
 - 4.4.1. Residency program committee
 - 4.4.2. Administrative resident role, with responsibilities such as scheduling
 - 4.4.3. Hospital or department committees
 - 4.4.4. Medical association, such as resident associations, provincial medical associations, and the Canadian Medical Association

Optional training experiences (Core stage):

5. Clinical training experiences
 - 5.1. Ophthalmology
 - 5.1.1. International/global health experiences
 - 5.1.2. Aesthetic oculoplastic surgery
 - 5.2. Observation of an ophthalmologist
6. Other training experiences
 - 6.1. Completion of review courses relevant to Ophthalmology, such as Stanford, Lancaster, Wills, or San Antonio ophthalmology courses

TRANSITION TO PRACTICE (TTP)

The focus of this stage is the consolidation of skills required to manage a practice, including an outpatient clinic and ophthalmic procedures. This stage also serves to prepare residents for independent practice, with instruction and experience in areas of administrative and professional responsibility, including implementing a plan for lifelong learning and continuing professional development.

Required training experiences (TTP stage):

1. Clinical training experiences
 - 1.1. Ophthalmology, in junior attending role¹
 - 1.1.1. Clinic in the hospital or community setting
 - 1.1.2. Consultation service to inpatient units and the emergency department
 - 1.1.3. Operating room
 - 1.1.4. After-hours coverage
2. Other training experiences
 - 2.1. Attendance at Ophthalmology academic half day
 - 2.2. Formal instruction in

¹ Definition of "junior attending": the resident assumes responsibility for patient care, and leadership in the education and clinical supervision of junior colleagues, with as much independence as permitted by ability, law, and hospital policy

- 2.2.1. Practice management
- 2.2.2. Risk management and medicolegal issues
- 2.2.3. Requirements for continuing professional development
- 2.2.4. Ethics, if not completed in Core
- 2.2.5. Work-life balance and resiliency

- 2.3. Completion of a scholarly project
- 2.4. Provision of formal teaching presentations, such as grand rounds
- 2.5. Supervision and teaching of medical students and junior residents
- 2.6. Leadership of critical appraisal activities, such as journal club

Recommended training experiences (TTP stage):

- 3. Clinical training experiences
 - 3.1. Ophthalmology
 - 3.1.1. Community outreach
 - 3.1.2. Global health initiatives
 - 3.2. Individualized and/or enhanced skills acquisition related to individual interest, career plan, and/or community needs, within the home institution or in other settings
- 4. Other training experiences
 - 4.1. Formal instruction in personal finances and investment

Optional training experiences (TTP stage):

- 5. Other training experiences
 - 5.1. Participation in a departmental, city, regional, provincial, or national committee related to advocacy work in Ophthalmology

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Royal College certification in Ophthalmology requires all of the following:

- 1. Successful completion of the Royal College examination in Ophthalmology and
- 2. Successful completion of the Royal College Ophthalmology Portfolio.

NOTES:

The Ophthalmology Portfolio refers to the list of entrustable professional activities across all four stages of the residency Competence Continuum and associated national standards for assessment and achievement.

MODEL DURATION OF TRAINING

Progress in training occurs through demonstration of competence and advancement through

the stages of the Competence Continuum. Ophthalmology is planned as a 5-year residency program. There is no mandated period of training in each stage. Individual duration of training may be influenced by many factors, which may include the resident's singular progression through the stages, the availability of teaching and learning resources, and/or differences in program implementation. Duration of training in each stage is therefore at the discretion of the faculty of medicine, the competence committee, and the program director.

Guidance for programs

The Royal College Specialty Committee in Ophthalmology's suggested course of training, for the purposes of planning learning experiences and schedules, is as follows:

1-3 months in Transition to Discipline

9-12 months in Foundations of Discipline

2-3 years in Core of Discipline

6-9 months in Transition to Practice

Guidance for postgraduate medical education offices

The stages of the Competence Continuum in Ophthalmology are generally no longer than

3 months for Transition to Discipline

12 months for Foundations of Discipline

3 years for Core of Discipline

9 months for Transition to Practice

Total duration of training – 5 years

This document is to be reviewed by the Specialty Committee in Ophthalmology by JANUARY 31, 2025.

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