



AMERICAN ACADEMY  
*of* OPTOMETRY

## DIPLOMATE CANDIDACY

### **Binocular Vision, Perception, & Pediatric Optometry Section**

#### *Research Diplomate Candidate's Guide*

#### **Requirements for a Research Diplomate**

The following outlines the protocol and requirements for experts to attain Diplomate status in the Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry Section. The purpose of this award is to permit Diplomate status for those individuals who contribute significantly to the field of binocular vision, perception and pediatrics but who are **primarily researchers** and thus are unable to meet the qualifications of the Clinical Diplomate program. The Research Diplomate has the same rights and privileges as the Clinical Diplomate.

To apply as a Research Diplomate Candidate, you must:

1. Be a Fellow in good standing of the American Academy of Optometry.
2. Have a minimum of 10 published research papers in leading peer-reviewed journals in the area of binocular vision, perception or pediatric optometry. The candidate should be the primary author on the majority of these publications.
3. Candidates should have a history of at least 5 years of active involvement in research in the area of binocular vision, perception or pediatric optometry. They should be currently engaged in such research and plan to remain involved in the future.
4. Submit an application and CV indicating your desire to become a Research Diplomate of the Section. The application should be returned together with an application fee of \$100 (made payable to the American Academy of Optometry) prior to April 15th of the year in which any part of the requirements will be undertaken to:

Binocular Vision, Perception, & Pediatric Optometry Section Diplomate Program  
American Academy of Optometry  
2909 Fairgreen Street  
Orlando, FL 32803  
Fax: 407-893-9890

5. Your application will be reviewed by the Research Diplomate Committee to determine if you qualify for Research status. The committee will review your CV and determine if you have met the criteria of "significant contributions to the field of binocular vision, perception and pediatrics." Once the committee recommends that you are qualified, you must complete the following steps:
  - a. Submit a scholarly scientific paper (~50 pages) on a topic to be agreed upon by the examining committee and the candidate.
  - b. Pass an oral examination focused on your expertise and general knowledge of topics within the scope of interest of the Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatrics Section.

As an applicant for Diplomate status under the above procedure, **you must complete the requirements within five years of application and payment of the application fee.** If you have not completed the process within this time period, a new application form and new application fee are required.

### **Scientific Paper Requirement**

1. Once you have made application, you should contact the Diplomate Chair to discuss possible topics for an appropriate paper.
2. You must submit five topics appropriate for a scientific paper of approximately 50 manuscript pages. The Diplomate Committee will rule out any unacceptable topics and you may then write your paper on any one of the remaining topics.
3. Once a suitable topic is agreed upon, you must submit 3 copies of an outline of the proposed paper to the Diplomate Chair.
4. Upon acceptance of the outline, you may write and submit the paper. Electronic submission is preferred. Co-authored papers will not be accepted. The paper must be submitted 3 months prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. The committee will referee the paper and it must be accepted before the Annual Meeting. (You will reserve all publishing rights to the paper).
5. The paper should be formatted following the guidelines of the Optometry and Vision Science journal.

### **Oral Examination Requirement**

After the paper is accepted by the Diplomate Committee, you will need to pass the oral examination. This examination will center on, but not be limited to, your area of expertise and your general knowledge of Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatrics. It is usually given by three members of the Section in a private setting. Typically, there will be a past Section or Diplomate Chair, and two members of the Research Diplomate committee. Those eligible for the oral examination will be scheduled between Friday PM and Saturday PM. It is important that the Diplomate Chair know your hotel room number, so you can be contacted to schedule your exam time.