

Dr. Wensveen

Course name: Vision Therapy

Semester credit hours: one only.

Course description:

This elective involves seeing patients referred for vision training for initial evaluations and for in-office vision therapy. The evaluations involve doing tests students already know how to do (cover test, Maddox rod, NPC, accommodative amps) and some tests students might not have experience with (prism bar vergences, associated phorias, accommodative facility), so during an initial evaluation students are asked to perform some tests, and watch while instructors initially perform others. At the conclusion of testing we discuss what we think are the weaknesses in coordination and focusing, whether or not we think training is a viable option, and how many training sessions we would attempt before re-evaluating binocularity. Then patients come in each week for a one-hour long training session where instructors demonstrate the techniques on the first few patients and get students to help. By the end of the term students primarily work with the patients, though instructors are always in the room with the students and patient. The idea is for students to learn the progression of techniques to help patients consciously control vergence for viewing stereograms, but for the patient's vergence & accommodation to operate efficiently and subconsciously at all other times. This elective presents an excellent opportunity for students to apply what they learn in their pediatrics labs, and this is their only opportunity to see vision training work with patients.

Course outline:

We evaluate and train patients with vergence anomalies including Convergence Insufficiency and Divergence Excess, accommodative infacility, and amblyopia.

Proposed Schedule:

Every Thursday afternoon 1:00 – 5:00 pm at present; during the spring and fall terms the late appointments are in high demand and we are not busy early in the afternoon. It may come about that during the 'school year' we run the VT clinic 2:00 – 6:00 pm instead, provided students are informed prior to choosing this elective. Patients are scheduled on the hour for Dr. Wensveen and on the half-hour for Dr. Younes.

Semesters offered:

Summer, fall, and spring.

Target students:

3rd & 4th year students.

Maximum class size:

6 students.

Resource or budgetary request:

Rooms 1150 and 1148 for Thursday afternoons.

Assign Drs. Wensveen & Younes to vision therapy Thursday afternoons.

Preferred time to teach:

Thursday afternoons.