Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation with an emphasis in Orientation and Mobility

INTRODUCTION

Undergraduates seeking to work as COMS will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation, with an emphasis in Orientation and Mobility. Coursework for the O&M Training Program includes 18 hours of general rehabilitation core courses and 33 hours of additional O&M courses. Courses include two practicums and two 3-credit hour internships. This affords our students with an excellent opportunity to work in a rehabilitation setting, with either children or adults who are blind or have visual impairments, and to use the skills acquired in class. In order to be certified, students must pass the ACVREP national exam for certification in O&M. Graduates from the O&M Training Program work for state rehabilitation agencies, such as Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) or Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC), Non-profit agencies, like the Lighthouses for the Blind, as well as schools for the blind and school districts throughout the state of Texas and elsewhere in the United States.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate students in Orientation and Mobility are required to take the following courses:

Rehabilitation Services core:

RHB 220, 325, 381, 383, 405, and EPS 485

Additional required courses which are taught by the VIP faculty:
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Rehabilitation Services Core Courses:

**RHB 220. Introduction to Rehabilitation Services**
A survey of the historical development of the present rehabilitation service system. An introduction to the agencies and their services.

**RHB 325. Foundations in Visual Impairment**
A broad overview of various aspects of blindness (e.g. agencies which provide services to persons with visual impairments, psychological and sociological aspects of blindness, history of the field, etc.)

**RHB 381. Interviewing and Helping Skills**
An introduction to the utilization of interpersonal communication skills and the various methods of intervention used in human services delivery, a one hour per week laboratory to enhance effective communication and interview skills is included. Prerequisite: RHB 220

**RHB 383. Psycho-Social Aspects of Disability**
Provides an understanding of persons with disabilities emphasizing psychological, social, and medical aspects.

**RHB 405. Rehabilitation Process and Practice**
A study of the process and practice of rehabilitation including intake, individual assessment, planning, utilization of client and community resources, implementation, and follow up. Prerequisites: RHB 220, RHB 383.

**EPS 485. Human Growth and Development**
The study of normal growth and development emphasizing social and emotional areas.
BS in Rehab with an emphasis in O&M
Courses in Orientation and Mobility Concentration:

**RHB 340. Structure and Function of the Visual System**
This class is designed to familiarize the student with the visual system and its impact on the process of seeing. The Functional Vision Evaluation and Learned Media Assessment are both introduced in this section.

**RHB 400. Beginning Clinical practicum in Orientation and Mobility (6 Credit Hours)**
Three hours of lecture and 3 hours of laboratory per week. An analysis and implementation of those skills, techniques and principles that enable the person with a visual impairment to move independently with safety and efficiency. Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor.

**RHB 401. Intermediate Clinical Practicum in Orientation and Mobility**
Field instruction in orientation and mobility under the supervision of the university faculty and/or approved COMS. Class provides a broad overview of O&M theory, skills, and strategies in O&M instruction. 
*Prerequisites: RHB 325 and 400, or instructor approval.*

**SPE 442. Instructional Strategies for Individuals with Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairments**
Students are required to study a wide array of conditions that often accompany vision loss as well as educational programming considerations, assessment, and adaptation of environments for these students.
*Prerequisites: RHB 400.*

**RHB 402. Advanced Clinical Practicum in Orientation and Mobility**
3 hours of lecture and approximately 3 hours of laboratory per week. Field instruction in orientation and mobility under the supervision of the university faculty and/or approved COMS. Class provides advanced instruction of O&M theory, skills, and strategies in O&M instruction.
*Prerequisites: RHB 325, 400, and 401.*

**SPE 445. Orientation and Mobility Skills and Concepts**
Body imagery, concept development, spatial awareness and mobility is considered. Body imagery, concept development, spatial awareness and mobility are emphasized.
*Prerequisites: RHB 400.*
RHB 493 Low Vision - Workshop in Rehabilitation
*Prerequisite: RHB 340 or instructor approval.*

RHB 495. Internship I - Orientation & Mobility
Supervised work experience in rehabilitation services agencies and school systems. Allows the student to apply personal values, theory and a philosophy of working with persons with disabilities. 
*Prerequisite: RHB 400, 401, 402.*

RHB 496 Internship II- Orientation & Mobility
Practical work experience as described in RHB 495. 
*Prerequisite: RHB 400, 401, 402*