What might I do as a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist?

- Teach independent travel skills to individuals with vision loss
- Orient a college student who is blind to locate classes, cafeteria, dorms, and the library on a college campus
- Explore a helicopter with a child who is blind in order to help her gain understanding of a difficult-to-grasp concept
- Empower a teenager who has low vision to read a bus schedule with a magnifier, catch the appropriate bus, and meet friends at the mall food court
- Teach a man who is visually impaired to cross two busy streets to get to the gym after work
- Instruct a young adult in the use of an electronic GPS device
- Teach long cane travel skills to a student who is visually impaired so he/she can maneuver independently through his/her school
- Orient a 30-year-old blinded veteran with a dog guide to her new job site
- Encourage an infant who is totally blind to engage in purposeful movement towards a musical toy
- Provide sensitivity training to the public regarding visual impairments

Why would I like this job?

- Instruct on one-to-one basis both indoors and outdoors
- Watch an individual smile as he/she sheds the weight of doubt and fear
- Empower and equip an individual with a visual impairment to re-enter the world
- Be creative and problem-solve
- Enjoy free daily workouts as part of your job duties

Lessons run the gamut from encouraging an infant to crawl across the living room floor to instructing a senior to cross four lanes of traffic. Each day brings a different adventure!
How do I become an O&M Specialist?
• SFA offers an undergraduate training program in O&M as part of a bachelor’s degree in rehabilitation services
• Master’s degree or graduate certification in O&M is also available
• Programs include coursework plus a practicum and internship
• The SFA Visual Impairment Preparation program offers distance education classes for graduate work and on-campus coursework for undergraduate work

Where would I work as an O&M Specialist?
• Outdoor, indoor, rural, and urban environments
• Schools, homes, and job sites of those who are blind or visually impaired
• Airport, bus and train terminals
• Assisted living and nursing home facilities
• Rehabilitation centers
• Hospitals

Opportunities available to apply for grants, stipends, or financial aid to fund tuition and training

The world is my classroom. I have no desk, I have no chair, but I get to go almost anywhere.

Potential employers include, but are not limited to,
• Individual public school districts or multi-district cooperatives
• Government or private agencies for people who are blind or visually impaired
• U.S. Veterans Administration
• Rehabilitation agencies/centers
• Schools for the blind/residential schools
• Dog guide schools
• Private contract/self-employed
• Camps for people with disabilities

For more information:
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