

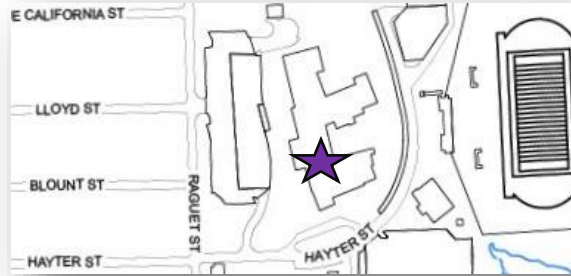
# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*Course Needed for Certification:*

SPED 5600	Beginning Clinical Practicum in Orientation and Mobility (6 hours)
SPED 5316	Structure and Function of the Visual System
SPED 5315	Foundations of Visual Impairment
SPED 5352	Instructional Strategies for Individuals with Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairments
SPED 5393	Intermediate Clinical Practicum in Orientation and Mobility
SPED 5318	Basic Concepts of Orientation and Mobility
SPED 5319	Low Vision
SPED 5394	Advanced Clinical Practicum in Orientation and Mobility
SPED 5695	Graduate Internship in Orientation and Mobility

*Additional Courses Available for Credit Toward a Master's in Special Education:*

SPED 5321	Methods and Strategies for Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments
SPED 5356	Research and Practice: Visual Impairment in Infancy and Early Childhood
SPED 5370	Special Studies in Special Education (6 hours)
SPED 5373	Leadership in Visual Impairment



Visual Impairment Preparation Program faculty and staff offices located in the Early Childhood Research Center



## Visual Impairment Preparation (VIP) Program

For more information, please contact:  
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# Orientation & Mobility



## Graduate Program



Nacogdoches, Texas

## Our History

Since 1972, the SFA Orientation and Mobility (O&M) program has been training candidates to work with persons who are blind or visually impaired. Orientation, defined for our purposes, means knowing where one is in relationship to one's surroundings and environment. Mobility is the ability to get from where one is to where one wants to be in a safe and efficient manner.

Our program offers a graduate-level training program leading to the opportunity to attempt the exam for the nationally recognized (ACVREP) COMS certification. Students interested in pursuing an advanced degree may also pursue a Master's degree in Special Education with a concentration in Orientation and Mobility.



## Eligibility Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university.
- Minimum overall Grade Point Average of 2.5 (based on a 4.0 system), and at least a 2.75 GPA on the last 60 hours of college work, which can include undergraduate or graduate level coursework.
- Graduate-level proficiency in both English reading and writing.
- Computer and internet access and the ability to demonstrate proficient computer literacy skills.

## Financial Aid

For traditional financial aid information, please review information on the SFA Financial Aid website: <http://www.sfasu.edu/admissions-and-aid#financial-aid>

The VIP Program has been awarded a grant to support Texas students pursuing training in visual impairment or orientation and mobility at the graduate level. This grant is provided through the State of Texas. The VIP program offers each Texas applicant the opportunity to apply for grant stipends that are awarded on a competitive basis. These stipends will cover tuition and most fees at the university.

If a student receives a grant stipend, additional classes needed to complete the master's program or to pursue an additional certification must be paid for by the student, as grant stipends only cover 21 hours of course credits needed toward certification. All books and supplies are the responsibility of the student.

Applications for grant funding are due on March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. If selected, your grant funding is "paid back" through subsequent work in the field of visual impairment in Texas, as detailed in the grant agreement.

## Delivery Methods

The VIP Program is dedicated to providing high quality instruction for the student with a minimum amount of time away from home through the use of distance education techniques. Our goal is to provide the maximum amount of student support possible through a variety of technologies. This includes instruction using the Brightspace/D2L course delivery platform and the ZOOM meeting platform.

## Practicum

Coursework for the O&M program includes three practica, during which students are immersed in O&M-related skill training. The first practicum is SPED 5600 (a.k.a. "the blindfold class"). This course includes 60 clock hours of instruction under blindfold, as well as six hours per week of lecture. The course is only offered during the summer. Students are required to come to campus at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX for approximately six weeks of daily instruction for SPED 5600. Room and board during this course is the responsibility of the student. If a student is awarded grant funding, the grant stipend will cover only tuition at the university related to SPE 5600.



## Post-Program Completion/ Post-Graduation

After successfully passing the ACVREP exam, our program completers provide services to children and adults who have visual impairments. They provide services and teach skills that will enable these individuals to travel independently in both familiar and unfamiliar environments. Completers of our O&M training program are eligible and prepared to successfully complete the national certification examination from ACVREP. Once certified, our graduates are able to work in a variety of settings including state rehabilitation agencies, Lighthouses for the Blind, residential/state schools for the blind, Veterans Administration training centers, and school districts throughout the state of Texas and across the United States.