

University of Massachusetts Boston

Graduate College of Education / Institute for Community Inclusion
Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education

Announces Career Opportunities with Scholarship Support in Visual Impairments

M.Ed. Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
M.Ed. Orientation and Mobility Specialist for the Blind

The Graduate College of Education has received two 5 year federal grants to address a national and regional shortage of teachers and related service professionals with specialized knowledge in Visual Impairments. The University of Massachusetts Boston is the only academic center for preparing “Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments” and “Orientation and Mobility Specialists” in New England. The University is seeking graduate applicants in each of the six New England States and is particularly interested in expanding enrollment of students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Students meeting admission and scholarship requirements are provided full tuition support. Both academic programs utilize a combination of Web-based courses with expanded pre-practicum field based activities to build a portfolio of professional skills and experiences.

What is a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments?

Teachers of students with visual impairments (TVI’s) are educational specialists providing support to both the student and classroom teacher. The primary goal of the TVI in a public school setting is to support the full inclusion of the child within the classroom integrated in all educational experiences. This is accomplished by assessment, direct instructional support, curriculum adaptation and consultation to the educational team including family and community.

What is an Orientation and Mobility Specialist?

While TVI’s provide services specific to children, Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists are prepared to work with all ages of persons with visual impairments. They teach orientation skills used to find one’s way in the environment and mobility skills used to travel independently at home, school, work, and in the community. An individualized program of instruction is to maximize confidence and safety, frequently utilizing such tools as the long cane, low vision devices and dog guides.

Employment Opportunities:

There are excellent employment opportunities through out the field of Visual Impairments. Both Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility Specialists are in great demand. The critical shortage regionally and across the country provides particularly strong employment potential for those students willing to re-locate.

For more Information about this exciting opportunity, visit our web site at www.nercve.umb.edu or call:

Amy McKenzie
amy.mckenzie@umb.edu
617-287-7595