



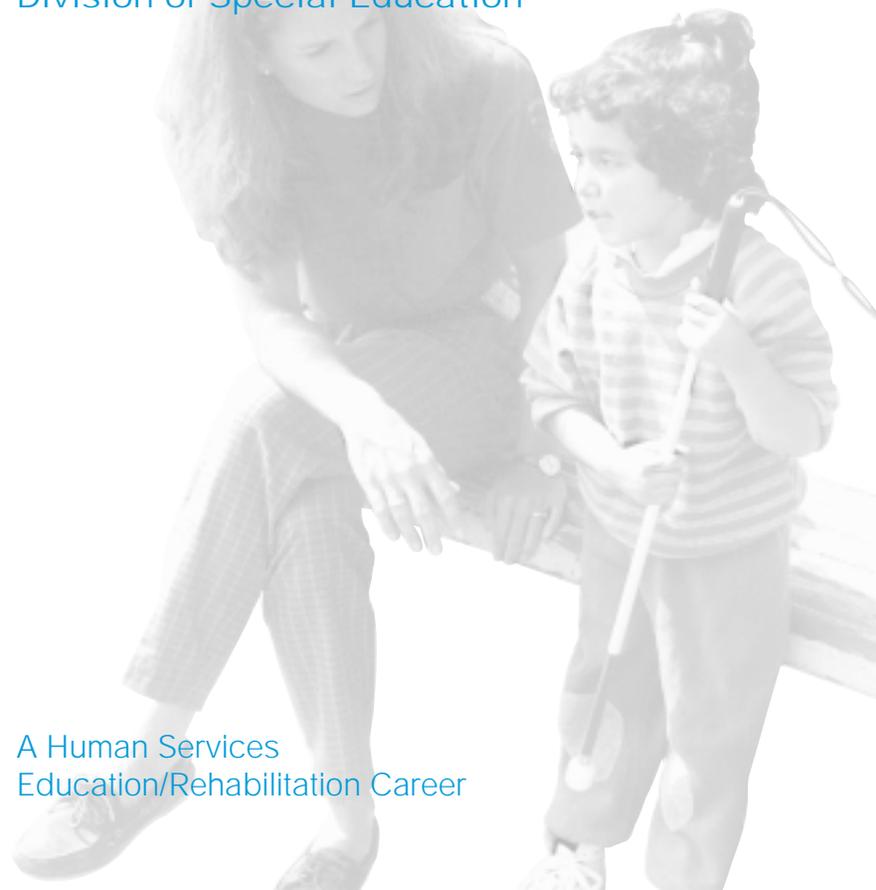
California State University, Los Angeles

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program

Master's Degree
Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential

Division of Special Education

A Human Services
Education/Rehabilitation Career



Other Required Courses

In addition to the O&M curriculum, all students must take two courses: EDSP 465-Introduction to Vision and EDSP 469 - Psychological, Sociological, and Vocational Implications of Blindness and Visual Impairment. Three core courses required on all master's degree programs in Special Education must also be taken: EDSP 400 - Foundations of Special Education, EDSP 500 - Research Methods in Special Education, and EDSP 501 - Problems and Practices in Special Education or EDSP 511 - Issues and Strategies in Multicultural Special Education. The Comprehensive Examinations are taken during the final quarter in the program. Content addressed in the examinations are taken from the core courses in Special Education and from an integration of knowledge across courses in orientation and mobility and visual impairment.

Special Education Field Experience

Since the early 1970s, Seeing Eye Inc., a well-known dog guide training school located in Morristown, New Jersey, has sponsored a field visitation to The Seeing Eye and selected agencies in New York. This one week field experience is an important, required portion of the program.

Students also attend an intensive workshop on teaching daily living skills to individuals who are blind. The workshop is typically held on a Saturday. Trainees are taught cooking, cleaning, eating and other personal management skills while wearing a blindfold.

Students also attend a Multicultural Special Education Seminar Series. These workshops are sponsored by the Division of Special Education and are typically held one Saturday morning per academic quarter. The workshops address current issues and practices in providing appropriate special education services to children, youth and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.



PROGRAM INFORMATION BOOKLET

Master of Arts Degree in Special Education: Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program

and

Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential: Orientation & Mobility

We encourage all individuals to apply,
including minorities and persons with disabilities.
Reasonable accommodation may be requested.



California State University, Los Angeles
Division of Special Education
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, California 90032-8144

In addition to the above course, third quarter trainees also enroll in EDSP 576A, a two-unit seminar. Seminar topics may include but are not limited to: O&M for Individuals who are Deaf-Blind; O&M for Individuals with Mild to Severe Disabilities; O&M for Individuals with Physical and Health Disabilities, and O&M with Adaptive and Other Mobility Devices. EDSP 576B is a practicum experience requiring a minimum of 4 hours per week of direct service in providing O&M instruction to blind and visually impaired individuals with additional disabilities. Trainees may be assigned an average of two - six students/clients in either a public school or agency setting.

Fourth Quarter - EDSP 503 is a full-time paid internship currently maintained with one of three Blind Rehabilitation Centers of the Veterans Administration (WBRC in Palo Alto, CA; SWBRC in Tucson, AZ; and American Lake in Tacoma, WA). Availability of internship slots at each site varies according to resources at the time. Trainees are expected to teach between 250 and 300 hours of orientation and mobility depending on a number of variables. In addition, the Centers provide trainees with a series of seminars

and related experiences in the areas of low vision assessment and training, electronic mobility devices, physical medicine/ rehabilitation services and audiology.

During the fourth quarter, trainees also complete a graduate directed study of their choice (with advisor approval). Permissible projects may include research, development of new instructional materials, family or public educational materials, and review of literature in areas in which the student and advisor believe there is a need for further study.



Expanded Description of Orientation & Mobility Program Curriculum

First Quarter - EDSP 475 consists of a combined experiential model of blindfold training, peer teaching, and observation of non-visual travel skills being taught. It also includes weekly seminars on topics, including but not limited to the following: History of the Profession; O&M Program Components and Individualized Program Planning; Functional Vision Assessment and Training; Tactual Maps and Models; Sensory Motor Training and Sensory Integration; Audition and Auditory Training, and the Visually Impaired Diabetic. Weekly seminars also address methods and strategies of teaching orientation and mobility.

In addition, all students take EDSP 406, Observation in Orientation and Mobility. For this course students are required to complete 10 hours of observations of O&M Specialists working with a variety of clientele. This course is repeated during the second quarter of training for an additional 10 hours.

Second Quarter - EDSP 476A is a one-unit seminar on instructional strategies. Seminar topics may include but are not limited to: Facilitating Movement in Young Children with Visual Impairments; Facilitating Movement in Older Adults who are Visually Impaired; Concept Development; Spatial Awareness, and Facilitating Independent Problem Solving in O&M. EDSP 476B is a practicum requiring 12 hours per week of direct service in providing O&M instruction to blind and visually impaired individuals under the supervision of an O&M specialist. Trainees may be assigned an average of four to ten students/clients in either a public school or agency setting. Supervision is maintained within a range of 50 - 100 percent depending on the setting and trainee needs. Students must receive a minimum grade of C in EDSP 475 and maintain the appropriate GPA in order to be placed in a practicum. EDSP 575A is an advanced seminar with topics that include: Electronic Travel Devices; Dog Guides; Architectural Hazards and Environmental Modifications; Professionalism; O&M Program Development, and Controversial Issues in O&M.

Third Quarter - EDSP 575B is a practicum requiring 12 hours per week of direct service in providing O&M instruction to blind and visually impaired individuals under the supervision of an O&M Specialist. Trainees may be assigned an average of four to ten students/clients in either a public school or agency setting. Supervision is maintained within a range of 50 - 100 percent depending on the setting and trainee needs. Students must receive a minimum grade of C in EDSP 475, complete all prerequisites, and maintain the appropriate GPA in order to be placed in a practicum.

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION: ORIENTATION & MOBILITY SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM and CLINICAL REHABILITATIVE SERVICES CREDENTIAL: ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

The Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program is offered through the Division of Special Education, Charter College of Education. An application to the program may be obtained by contacting:

Program Director
Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program
Charter College of Education
Division of Special Education
California State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, California 90032

Telephone: (323) 343-4411
Email: dfazzi@calstatela.edu
bnaimy@calstatela.edu

About the University

California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State L.A.) was established in 1947 in the western San Gabriel Valley. The campus is located just five miles east of downtown Los Angeles and its freeway access makes it easily reached from many Southern California communities.

The University is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Programs within the Charter College of Education are accredited by the California State Board of Education Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program at Cal State L.A. has been in existence since January, 1967. It is one of only two such programs in the State of California.

Historical Background

Historically, independent travel for individuals who were blind was not widely achieved or expected. Prior to World War II, no formal training of specialists in the field of orientation and mobility (O&M) existed and few agencies and schools provided more than rudimentary instruction in independent travel for individuals with visual impairments. Early O&M training was typically limited to the environment of the particular facility.

During World War II, methods were developed to enhance the rehabilitation of blinded veterans. The Veterans Administration's highly successful efforts and the high level of performance of rehabilitated blind veterans resulted in a surge of interest in independent orientation and mobility for individuals with visual impairments. The first university training program in the area of orientation and mobility was started in 1960. The positive performance of the graduate trained instructors and the blind students with whom they worked resulted in a growing demand for services and an expanding need for instructors.

Since the 1960s, orientation and mobility has been consistently identified as a key service area for individuals who are blind and visually impaired. The majority of O&M training programs are offered at a graduate level, but the number of specialized programs (graduate and undergraduate) available within the United States ranges between 15 - 18. Some O&M training programs are housed within Special Education programs while others are offered through programs in Rehabilitation.



Program Description

(Typical course sequence, structure and expanded description)

NOTE: The actual sequence of coursework may vary according to variations in scheduling and course offerings. All trainees in the traditional O&M Specialist Training Program are required to complete an internship at a Blind Rehabilitation Center of the Veteran's Administration. Due to the limited number of internship placements available students may complete their internship either third or fourth quarter. Fourth quarter placements may be made during Summer or Fall Quarters.

FIRST QUARTER

		Units
EDSP 400	Foundations of Special Education	4
EDSP 406	Observation in Orientation and Mobility (<i>10 hours per quarter, times to be arranged by student</i>)	1
EDSP 465	Introduction to Vision	3
EDSP 475	Orientation & Mobility for the Blind (<i>Combination of blindfold travel, teaching peers and observation - 14 hours per week, times to be arranged; two seminar lectures - 4 hours per week, times to be arranged</i>) [<i>18 hours total per week - daytime hours as scheduled</i>]	6
		<u>14</u>

SECOND QUARTER

EDSP 406	Observation in Orientation and Mobility (<i>10 hours per quarter; times to be arranged by student</i>)	1
EDSP 469	Psychological, Sociological, and Vocational Implications of Blindness & Visual Impairment	4
EDSP 476A	Orientation and Mobility Instructional Seminar	1
EDSP 476B	Clinical Practice in Orientation and Mobility (<i>Practicum: 12 hours per week; day/times to be arranged</i>)	4
EDSP 500	Research Methods in Special Education	4
EDSP 575A	Advanced Seminar in Orientation and Mobility	1
		<u>15</u>

THIRD QUARTER

EDSP 501	Problems and Practices in Special Education	4
EDSP 575B	Advanced Clinical Practice in Orientation and Mobility (<i>Practicum: 12 hours per week; day/times to be arranged</i>)	4
EDSP 576A	Orientation and Mobility Seminar in Multiple Disabilities	2
EDSP 576B	Clinical Practice in Orientation and Mobility: Emphasis Multiple Disabilities (<i>Practicum: 4-6 hours per week; TBA</i>)	2
Elective	Selected with advisor approval	<u>3</u>
		15

FOURTH QUARTER

EDSP 503	Field Work in Special Education (<i>Internship</i>) (3-3-3)	9
EDSP 598	Graduate Directed Study (<i>To be completed final quarter, but it is expected that students will begin work on their graduate directed study during their second quarter of study.</i>)	3
EDSP 596	Comprehensive Examinations	<u>0</u>
		12

Professional Responsibilities in Orientation & Mobility

Candidates for the Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program are typically considered for admission in the Fall Quarter that begins in late September. While there is no strict application deadline, the program begins accepting applications in November for admission the following Fall Quarter. Applications are accepted until all openings are filled. Admission decisions are typically made during Spring Quarter, but are extended if sufficient applications are not received. Completion of an application for admission to the University is not required until the candidate is offered a traineeship in the O&M program.

All master's degree candidates within the Charter College of Education are expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA; this includes students in the O&M Specialist Training Program. Federal grant support (when available) for this program requires that trainee recipients maintain a 3.0 GPA, carry a minimum courseload of 12 units each quarter, and plan a course of study resulting in completion of the M.A. program in four consecutive academic quarters. (See Expanded Description of O&M Curriculum for clarification.)

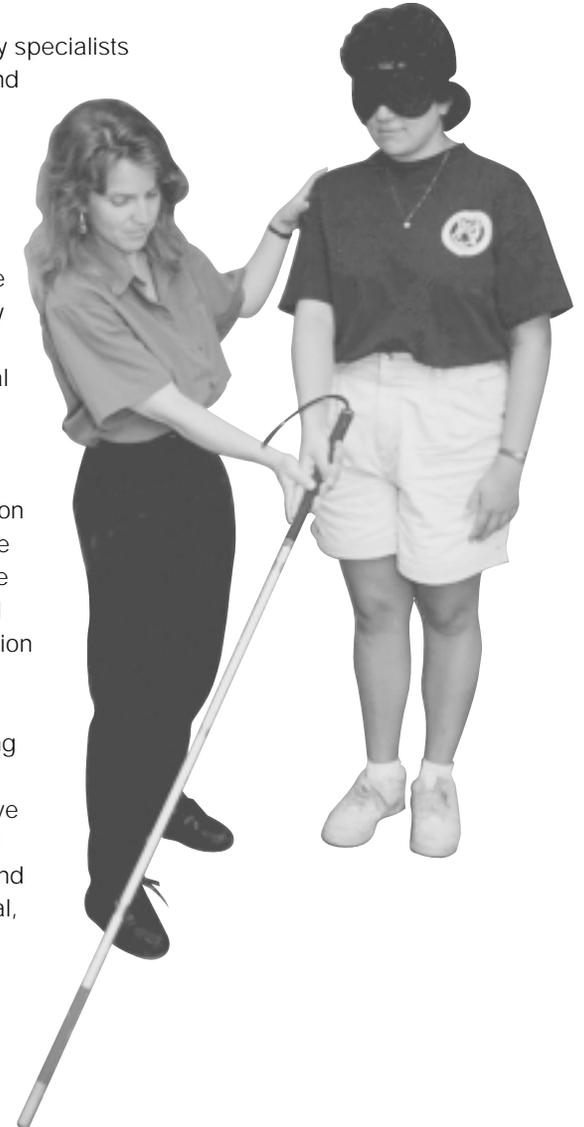
Financial Assistance

A limited number of traineeship stipends are awarded by the Cal State L.A. O&M Specialist Training Program with funds granted (as available) from the Rehabilitation Services Administration and Office of Special Education Programs, United States Department of Education. Award amounts are dependent upon annual budget awards to the program. Traineeship awards (when available) may provide approximately \$4,800 for the 12 months of training. Traineeships may also provide (when available) partial-to-total payment of in-state registration fees. In-state registration fees in 2000 totalled approximately \$2,400 for the full year program. In 2000, nonresident tuition averaged approximately \$10,600 for the full year program.

For information regarding financial aid and scholarships through federal, state and university programs, contact the Cal State L.A. Center for Student Financial Aid.

Orientation & mobility services are primarily directed toward assisting blind and visually impaired individuals to achieve independent movement within home, school, work and community settings. In the 1970s, O&M specialists expanded services to include visually impaired children and youth in the public schools and individuals who have low vision. O&M specialists today provide instruction to blind and visually impaired individuals of all ages, including individuals with multiple disabilities and other health impairments.

Orientation and mobility specialists provide direct instruction and consultation for young blind and visually impaired children (infants, toddlers and preschoolers) and their families. Early O&M intervention may emphasize the following areas: sensory awareness, concept development, environmental exploration, and safe and efficient movement. In the public schools, O&M specialists provide instruction in basic skills and protective techniques, cane travel, use of low vision devices, visual efficiency training, intersection analysis and safe street crossings, use of public transportation, and shopping skills. Adults who are blind and visually impaired receive training in similar areas and are taught to travel safely and efficiently in residential, rural, and urban environments as appropriate.



Career Opportunities in Orientation & Mobility

Orientation and mobility for visually impaired persons is a dynamic discipline. The Cal State L.A. O&M Specialist Training Program seeks instructor candidates possessing intelligence, common sense, sensitivity, insight, flexibility, creativity, dedication to teaching a wide range of students, and strong interpersonal and communication skills.

Employers of orientation & mobility specialists include private agencies for the blind, Blind Rehabilitation Centers within the Veterans Administration, state commissions for the blind, state rehabilitation agencies and centers, residential schools for children who are blind and visually impaired, and public school systems. Opportunities for private contract work are also available through state departments of rehabilitation and regional centers. Individuals seeking employment as O&M specialists within California public schools must have a Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential in Orientation & Mobility. Successful completion of the Cal State L.A. graduate degree program in orientation & mobility (with a minimum grade of B in the O&M practicum experience with children), along with successful completion of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), meets the requirements for this credential. Completion of the graduate degree program in orientation & mobility and its associated functional competencies as an O&M specialist, provides candidates with initial eligibility for national certification as an O&M specialist through the Academy for Certification of Vision – Rehabilitation and Education Professionals. ACVREP certification is required by many school districts and agencies throughout the country. Starting salaries in 1999-2000 ranged from \$32,000 - \$49,000 annually.

Avenues for professional networking are available through state, regional and national professional organizations. The California Association of Orientation & Mobility Specialists (CAOMS) is a state professional organization for O&M specialists with active Southern and Northern California Chapters. An annual statewide conference is held in the fall and the Southern and Northern Chapters alternate hosting the event. The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired is a national professional organization. Division IX is the Orientation & Mobility interest group, and has the largest membership within AER. Northern and Southern California

both have active AER Chapters. AER sponsors international conferences.



Program Admission Guidelines

All applicants to the Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program must complete a program application, an in-person interview, and a minimum of two field observations of practicing O&M specialists. (O&M program faculty will assist applicants in obtaining potential contacts in their local areas when possible.) Successful prior employment, volunteer service or personal experience with individuals who are visually impaired is preferred, but not essential. Due to the highly specialized nature of the program and intensive training resources required, there are a limited number of program openings each year. The program director is typically able to provide an anticipated number of openings for each given year dependent upon resources available.

Program admission requires graduation from an accredited four-year college with a bachelor's degree and a minimum grade point average of 2.75 (A=4.0) in the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units) attempted. Program openings are competitive and quality of the written application and references, quality of the program interview, and quality of prior work/volunteer experiences are considered in all acceptance decisions.

Students with a 2.50 - 2.75 GPA may be considered for admission by special action if experiential background warrants such consideration by the program. If accepted by special action, graduate students must complete the first 14 units of approved course work with a 3.0 average in order to maintain graduate student status within the Charter College of Education.

The Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program does not require Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores or CBEST scores for admission to the program. However, the successful passage of the CBEST is a requirement for the Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential in Orientation & Mobility and will be considered in the application process.

All qualified individuals are encouraged to apply. There is a strong need for O&M specialists who are bilingual. Applicants for whom English is a second language must successfully complete the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 550 to be considered for admissions into the O&M program.

The nature of the training and services provided by O&M specialists requires a high level of instructor mobility and perceptual skills. O&M training involves teaching safe use of stairways, escalators, and bus travel. It also involves making quick, sound judgments and taking appropriate action to prevent student injury in rapidly changing and often congested environments. The development of safe and independent student travel is the primary goal of O&M services; therefore, it is necessary that the instructor's perceptions, judgments, and initiation of protective actions can be made from a point out of physical range from students.