

Florida State University Programs in Visual Impairment

*Ideas that move,
Leadership that inspires,
Scholarship that makes a difference
for the 21st century.*

REQUIRED COURSES FOR GRADUATE MAJORS

Below is a list of courses required for students preparing to enhance their preparation as teachers children with visual impairments (TVI). It is strongly advised that you consult with your Advisor in the development of your schedule *each* semester.

Individuals participating in the Program in Visual Impairment at the master's degree level design their own program, based on their personal interests and career goals. Many students elect to specialize in one of the areas listed below:

- Area 1 Orientation and Mobility
- Area 2 Education of Young Children with Visual Impairments
- Area 3 Education of Individuals with Visual Impairments in Transition
- Area 4 Education of Individuals with Visual Impairments who also have Severe Cognitive Disabilities

Most students with an undergraduate degree in visual disabilities can complete the master's degree program in one academic year. Students entering without courses in teaching children with visual impairments typically complete all requirements in 2 years, though scheduling issues may result in the program requiring 2.5 years to complete.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Because Florida State University offers a bachelor's degree program in the area of Visual Impairment, program participants who have not had the following core courses (or equivalents) must successfully complete the following classes during their master's degree work:

Hours Prerequisite Courses (or equivalent)
Education of the Visually Impaired Core

- 3 Introduction to Visual Impairments
- 3 Literary Braille

- 3 Introduction to Orientation and Mobility
- 3 Teaching Reading and Writing to Students with Visual Impairments
- 3 Anatomy and Diseases of the Eye
- 3 Academic Modifications in the Public School Class
- 3 Teaching Independent Living Skills
- 3 Teaching Social and Career Skills to Visually Impaired Learners
- 3 Assessment of Students with Visual Impairments
- 3 Advanced Braille and Mathematics for the Blind
- 3 Educational Management of Students with Visual Impairments
- 3 Teaching Students with Visual Impairment and Other Disabilities

Additional courses may be required for certification as a teacher of the visually impaired in Florida. Please consult with your advisor if you are interested in certification.

PROGRAM PLANNING

Master's degree students are required to take a minimum of 32 semester hours, 24 of which must be at the 5000 level. Careful program planning is necessary to assure that the appropriate coursework and practicum experiences are taken. A Program of Study must be submitted and approved before the completion of 12 semester hours of work. Please consult with your advisor to assure that all requirements for the master's degree are met.

REQUIRED COURSES

The following four courses are required of all students in the Program in Visual Impairment:

Hours	Required Courses
	Advanced Study in Visual Impairment
3	Studies in Research on Individuals with Visual Impairments
3	Low Vision
3	Technology for Individuals with Visual Impairments
3	Issues of Blindness in Society
0	Master's Written Comprehensive Examination

ELECTIVE TRACKS

Area 1: Orientation and Mobility¹

Hours Required Courses

- 3 Applied Methods of Orientation and Mobility
- 3 Advanced Orientation and Mobility Procedures
- 3 Developmentally Appropriate O&M
- 3 Aging and Visual Impairment
- 3 Vocational Placement for Individuals with Visual Impairments
- 3 Health Issues in Orientation and Mobility
- 2 Practicum in Orientation and Mobility
- 3 Internship in Orientation and Mobility

¹Students taking this area of study may be eligible to receive the Orientation and Mobility Endorsement and Certification from ACVREP

Area 2: Early Childhood Education for Children with Visual Impairments

Hours Required Courses:

- 3 Typical and Atypical Early Development
- 3 Special Methods of Working with Preschoolers with Visual Impairments
- 3 Assessment of Young Children with Visual Impairments
- 3 Communication and Emergent Literacy of Young Children with Visual Impairments
- 3 Practicum in Early Childhood Special Education
- 3 Developmentally Appropriate O&M
- 2 Practicum with Young Children with Visual Impairments

Area 3: Education of Visually Impaired Individuals with Profound Disabilities²

Hours Required Courses:

- 3 Development and Assessment of Individuals with Severe Disabilities
- 3 Teaching the Student with Profound Disabilities
- 3 Teaching Students with Autism
- 3 Collaborative Transition and Career Planning for students with Severe or Profound Disabilities
- 3 Teaching Deaf-Blind/Multisensory Impaired Individuals
- 3 Positive Behavior Support
- 3 Advanced Practicum: Profound Disabilities
- 5 Electives

²Students taking this course of study would be eligible to receive the specialization in profound mental disabilities within the Profoundly Handicapped Endorsement.

Area 4: Education of Visually Impaired Individuals in Transition

Hours Required Courses:

- 3 Preparing Individuals for Transition
- 3 Collaborative Transition and Career Planning for students with Severe or Profound Disabilities
- 3 Seminar in Transition
- 3 Issues in Vocational Placement for Individuals with Visual Impairments
- 3 Practicum in Transition

Many students design their own Master's Degree program. Some of the areas of specialty that have been selected in the past include:

- ⊕ Working with children and families from Hispanic cultures
- ⊕ Science education
- ⊕ Adapted physical education
- ⊕ Elementary education

ADDITIONAL COURSES REQUIRED FOR FLORIDA CERTIFICATION IN VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

EEX 4770	Introduction to Human Exceptionality
EEX 5906	Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Educators
EEX 5017	Typical and Atypical Early Development
TSL 5325	ESOL Instruction in the Content Area
RED 4335	Reading in the Content Area
EVI 5942	Student Teaching Internship

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

Satisfactory performance in all coursework (average GPA of 3.0 or higher)

Passage of Florida Teacher Certification Exam

- General Knowledge
- Professional Knowledge
- Teaching Children with Visual Disabilities

For more information, please contact Dr. Lewis at 850-644-8409 or slewis@fsu.edu or www.careersinblindness.com