TEACH BEYOND THE CLASSROOM







General Information

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Do you value collaboration and working one-on-one with students?

Consider working with students with visual impairments.

Teachers of students with visual impairments (TVI):

- Teach students of all ages, birth through high school.
- Evaluate use of vision and its impact on learning and functioning.
- Support instruction in academic skills and functional skills.
- Link with families, teachers, and community agencies.
- Evaluate and teach assistive technology, such as magnifiers and personal braille devices.
- Teach adaptive strategies for social, daily living, recreation, and leisure skills.
- Increase students' independence through self-advocacy and self-determination.

Certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS):

- Teach students of all ages, birth through high school.
- Evaluate use of vision and its impact on learning and traveling.
- Teach spatial concepts for purposeful movement.
- Teach skills for safe and efficient travel, including skills needed by young children and those with multiple impairments.
- Teach adaptive technology (e.g., long cane, auditory GPS device).
- Increase students' independence through self-advocacy and self-determination.

What do I need to know about training?

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TVIs	O&Ms
General or special education certification required	Bachelor's degree required, but not teacher certification
Take 6 courses plus an internship	Take 8 courses plus an internship
May apply for tuition stipend	May apply for tuition stipend
Enjoy support from a TVI mentor	Enjoy support from an O&M mentor
Take courses through distance learning options	Take courses through a combination of distance learning options
Obtain Texas certification in visual impairment	Obtain national certification in orientation and mobility

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