



College of Education
Visual Impairment Program
Application Information

Thank you for your interest in the Missouri State University Certification Program in Visual Impairment. Below you will find information on the steps that will need to be followed to complete the application process. If at any point you have questions, please email – Ian Shadrick M.A., M.A., CVRT, CRC at ianshadrick@missouristate.edu.

Complete the application process for admission to Missouri State University. Information on this can be found at <http://www.missouristate.edu/certification/51956.htm> . Please submit a letter of intent indicating your plan to pursue VI certification, Orientation and Mobility Certification or a Dual Certification. In addition, include three letters of reference and official transcripts. Please review the information below containing specific requirements for the Visual Impairment program. DEADLINES for application: Summer deadline is May 1, Fall deadline is July 15 and Spring deadline is December 1. NOTE: All applicants must meet graduate admission standards if plan to pursue a Master's degree. It is recommended that student apply to Graduate College prior to or during their first semester of coursework. For information the Graduate Program go to: <http://graduate.missouristate.edu/>

Upon review and acceptance into the visual impairment program, you will receive a plan of study from the teacher certification office. For an overview of the Visual Impairment program go to: <http://www.missouristate.edu/certification/visimpaired.htm>

Highlights of the Visual Impairment Program

Courses offered: (Individualized course sequence provided to students based on transcript analysis.)

Summer:	SPE 606 and SPE 607; SPE 712
Fall:	SPE 608, SPE 605; SPE 789; SPE 714
Spring:	SPE 709; SPE 711; SPE 671; SPE 789

Additional Coursework and Praxis Exams required for initial Certification in Visually Impaired:

Praxis II Exams: #20353 and #1054

EDC 350 School and Society 3 hours

Choose One: SPE 310 Introduction to Special Education or SPE 715 Foundations in Special Education

Choose One: PSY 360 Educational Psychology or PSY 703 Human Growth and Development

Choose One: RDG 318 Foundations of Reading or RDG 700 Relationship of Language to Reading & Intellectual Development

Praxis II Exam: # 10280

Cost/Fees:

1. On-line courses - \$275.00 per credit hour (non-resident fee does not apply)
2. Traditional courses - \$227.00 per credit hour
3. Non-Missouri Resident courses - \$454.00 per credit hour

***Disclaimer: The rates listed are for current tuition and fees, and may change in future semesters.**

Additional Information Related to the Visual Impairment Program

We appreciate your interest in the Visual Impairment Program offered at Missouri State University. This document is to provide you with important information, expectations and requirements to consider prior to pursuing certification as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired.

1. Each participant is required to complete practical experiences during coursework so it is critical that participants identify possible practical placement opportunities. The courses in which this applies, prior to the official SPE 789 Clinical Practicum in Visual Impairment:
 - a. SPE 606: Observation of a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
 - b. SPE 607: Development of a lesson and communication system
 - c. SPE 608: Complete a Functional Vision Assessment
 - d. SPE 709: Approximately 40 hours of practical experiences to complete activities assigned including the Learning Media Assessment
2. The majority of coursework is implemented in an online format. As a result, students are expected to have computer skills and access to high speed internet. See the MSU online department at this link for specific requirements to get ready for online instruction: <http://msonline.missouristate.edu/helpdesk/getready.htm>
3. The online coursework requires proctored exams. As a result each participant must identify an official proctor who meets the university standards as set by the MSU online test proctoring center. To see these requirements go to: <http://msonline.missouristate.edu/68643.htm>
4. Each student is expected to have access to specific supplies required to complete the program. These supplies include a Perkins Braille Writer, Vision Acuity Charts, Abacus, Slate & Stylus, and download demos of assistive technology software.
5. Each student will be required to complete a Clinical Practicum in Visual Impairments. The hours assigned will be based on experience and certification. The decision related to the number of hours is determined by the Visual Impairment faculty. Participants must identify a practicum placement the semester prior to the actual assignment in order to provide the Instructor time to communicate with the placement site and cooperating Teacher of the Visually Impaired. The Clinical Practicum experience must include teaching students who are blind or visually impaired in K-12 local education agencies.
6. Prior to the start of the Clinical Practicum, students must complete a background check, TB test, and obtain liability insurance.
7. The student must be supervised during the Clinical Practicum by a Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired with a minimum of 5 years of teaching experience. The student must work with the Instructor of SPE 789 to secure an appropriate Cooperating Teacher of the Visually Impaired.

Graduate Option: Students who wish to earn an MSED degree while pursuing Visually Impaired Certification must complete additional graduate hours in consultation with their Graduate Advisor to reach a minimum of 32 graduate credit hours. The courses include

SFR 780 Educational Research Methodologies

Choose one: SPE 782 Advanced Diagnosis & Remediation of Students with Mild to Moderate Disabilities

OR SPE 783 Advanced Assessment to Support Developmental & Sensory Disabilities

Choose one: SPE 788 Seminar **OR** SPE 799 Thesis Option **OR** SPE 787 Advanced Applied Behavioral Analysis and Intervention

Upon completion of the graduate program of study each student must complete a comprehensive exam.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Dr. Ajuwon at paulajuwon@missouristate.edu or Ian Shadrick M.A., CVRT, CRC at ianshadrick@missouristate.edu

Potential Funding Opportunities Exist

Funding from a grant the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) exists for students interested in pursuing certification in orientation and mobility. The application deadline to apply for grant funding is September 20th, 2011.

1. Priority is given to students interested in pursuing dual certification in orientation & mobility and teaching students with visual impairments.
2. Priority is also given to students who are Missouri residents deemed to be in a geographic area of high need for certified professionals.
3. Students selected as potential candidates for the program will be invited for an on campus interview to be held the week of October 15, 2011.
4. Decisions are expected to be made by October 31, 2011.