

# ***“PREPARING EDUCATIONAL LEADERS”***

## Program in Visual Impairment

major number: 220706

### **MASTER’S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS for INDIVIDUALS ENHANCING THEIR PREPARATION AS TEACHERS OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN**

Entrance into the Program in Visual Impairment at the master’s degree level may occur during any academic semester, but is recommended in the Fall.

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 Early Childhood Education for the Visually Impaired
- Area 3 Education of Visually Impaired Individuals in Transition
- Area 4 Education of Visually Impaired Individuals with Profound Disabilities

Most individuals 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:

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Prerequisite Courses (or equivalent)</b>
	<b>Education of the Visually Impaired Core</b>
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:

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Required Courses</b>
	<b>Advanced Study in Visual Impairment</b>
3	Seminar in Visual Disabilities
3	Low Vision
3	Technology Used by Individuals with Visual Impairments
3	Issues of Blindness in Society
0	Master's Written Comprehensive Examination

## ELECTIVES

### Area 1: Orientation and Mobility<sup>1</sup>

**Hours Required Courses**

- 3 Teaching Orientation and Mobility
- 3 Advanced Orientation and Mobility
- 3 Internship in Orientation and Mobility
- 11 Electives (courses in teaching visually impaired children apply)

<sup>1</sup>Students taking this area of study may be eligible to receive the Orientation and Mobility Endorsement.

### Area 2: Early Childhood Education for Children with Visual Impairments<sup>2</sup>

**Hours Required Courses:**

- 3 Typical and Atypical Early Development
- 3 Assessment and Methods in Early Childhood Special Education
- 3 Program Development for Young Children with Disabilities
- 3 Practicum in Early Childhood Special Education
- 3 Program Development for Infants and Young Children with Visual Impairments
- 5 Electives

<sup>2</sup>Students taking this area of study may be eligible to receive the Prekindergarten Handicapped Endorsement.

### Area 3: Education of Visually Impaired Individuals in Transition

**Hours Required Courses:**

- 3 Preparing Individuals for Transition
- 3 Seminar in Transition
- 3 Practicum in Transition
- 3 Principles and Practices of Rehabilitation for the Blind
- 3 Vocational Placement of Individuals with Visual Impairments
- 5 Electives

### Area 4: Education of Visually Impaired Individuals with Profound Disabilities<sup>3</sup>

**Hours Required Courses:**

- 3 Autism and Severe Communication Disorders
- 3 Teaching the Student with Profound Disabilities
- 3 Directed Study: Program Development for Individuals with Visual Impairments and Profound Disabilities
- 3 Positive Behavior Support
- 3 Advanced Practicum: Profound Disabilities
- 5 Electives

<sup>3</sup>Students taking this course of study would be eligible to receive the specialization in profound mental disabilities within the Profoundly Handicapped Endorsement.

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

EVI 5841 Student Teaching Internship

### **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

GPA: 3.0 or higher (may be lower if GRE score is greater than 1000)  
GRE: 1000 (verbal and quantitative) (may be lower if GPA is higher than 3.0)  
3 letters of recommendation

### **EXIT REQUIREMENTS**

Satisfactory performance in all coursework (average GPA of 3.0 or higher)  
Passage of all parts of CLAST or Praxis I  
Passage of Florida Teacher Certification Exam

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT  
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