

## Highlight Florida State University Programs

Bachelor of Science in Visual Disabilities Education

Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction w/Content Major in Visual Disabilities

### Florida State University

<http://explorefsucoe.com/programs/undergraduate-degrees/bachelors-degree-in-visual-disabilities>

Access to opportunity is the foundation for instructing, supporting and providing services to individuals who are blind or who have low vision. Students with visual impairments – children who are blind or visually impaired – require specialized assistance to learn what other children learn incidentally, from watching. Because they cannot see and learn from what others around them are doing, these children need instruction from a special teacher who works with them and their families to develop skills in a variety of academic and non-academic areas. Individuals with visual impairment require instructional techniques that are unlike the strategies needed by other populations of learners, with or without disabilities. The professional educator's role is to provide meaningful experiential, hands-on activities in natural, flexible learning environments that promote access to opportunities for maximum independent functioning and ultimate inclusion as adults in society. Areas of instruction include:

- Reading & writing braille
- Use of assistive technology
- Adaptive personal hygiene techniques
- Selection & care of clothing
- Meal planning & food preparation
- Money management & housekeeping skills
- Leisure & recreation skills
- Social skills
- Career & vocational readiness skills
- Self-determination skills

The overall mission of the Program in Visual Disabilities is to graduate individuals who are competent and confident professional educators who have a personal and professional commitment to improving the opportunities for individuals who are blind or who have low vision.

As such, program graduates will have the necessary skills and knowledge to provide appropriate services to a diverse population of individuals with visual impairments and their families in a variety of educational environments and community settings.

Graduates with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Visual Disabilities are prepared to teach children, ages birth-21 and their families.

Graduates with a Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction w/Content Major in Visual Disabilities have been allowed to plan their studies so upon graduation they're prepared to work with adults or children who have visual impairments either as a public or residential school teacher or an orientation and mobility specialist. Graduate students select from an area of service to individuals with visual impairments in which they plan to specialize which can lead to additional certification or endorsement by state education agencies or professional organizations.

**Careers in Visual Disabilities:** Every year in Florida, jobs go unfilled, and students go underserved, because so few people know about this rewarding and satisfying field of education.

Results from one study indicate that there is a need for 5,000 new Teachers of Children with Visual Impairments (TVIs) and a need for 10,000 new Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists to work with children and adults with visual impairments across the U.S.