

Orientation & Mobility Specialist (O&M):

Let's Get Moving: Teaching Independent Travel Skills to Individuals with Vision Loss



What might I do as an O&M Specialist?

- Orient a college student who is blind to locate classes, cafeteria, dorms, and the library on a college campus
- Explore a helicopter with a child who is blind in order to understand a difficult-to-grasp concept
- Empower a teenager who has low vision to read a bus schedule with a magnifier, catch the appropriate bus, and meet friends at the mall food court
- Teach a man who is visually impaired to cross two busy streets to get to the gym after work
- Instruct a young adult in the use of a GPS device
- Teach long cane travel skills so a grandmother who is visually impaired can maneuver independently through an airport to go visit her grandchildren
- Watch a four-year-old name her long cane "Tangeroo" and use it to move around her pre-school
- Collaborate with city planners and traffic engineers to develop safe intersection designs for pedestrians who are visually impaired
- Orient a 30-year-old blinded veteran with a dog guide to her new job site
- Motivate an infant who is totally blind to engage in purposeful movement towards a musical toy
- Provide sensitivity training to the public regarding visual impairments



TSBVI

Why would I like this job?

- Instruct on one-to-one basis both indoors and outdoors
- Watch an individual smile as they shed the weight of doubt and fear
- Empower and equip an individual with a visual impairment to re-enter their world
- Be creative and problem solve
- Enjoy free daily workouts as part of your job duties

Lessons run the gamut -- from motivating an infant to crawl across the living room to instructing a senior to cross four lanes of traffic-- it makes each day dynamic, different, and challenging

How do I become an O&M Specialist?

- Bachelor's degree required
- Master's degree or graduate certification in Orientation & Mobility is required unless an undergraduate degree in O&M is obtained
 - Program includes 2-4 semesters of coursework plus a practicum and internship
 - Many universities offer distance education classes and/or on-campus coursework
- Passing a certification exam is usually required

Grants and/or stipends for tuition sometimes available



Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Where would I work as an O&M Specialist?

- Outdoor, indoor, rural, and urban environments
- Schools and job sites
- Airport, bus and train terminals
- Homes of those who are blind or visually impaired
- Assisted living and nursing home facilities
- Rehabilitation centers
- Hospitals

**The world is my classroom --
I haveno desk,
I haveno chair,
but I get to go
almost anywhere**

Potential employers include but are not limited to:

- Individual public-school districts or multi-district cooperatives
- Government or private agencies for the blind and visually impaired
- U.S. Veterans Administration
- Rehabilitation agencies/centers
- Private individuals
- Schools for the blind/residential schools
- Dog guide schools
- Private contract/self-employed
- Camps for people with disabilities
- Universities

For more information:



Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

5680 King Centre Drive, Suite 600
Alexandria, VA 22315
Phone: 703-671-4500
aer@aerbvi.org
www.aerbvi.org



Facebook: www.facebook.com/aerbvi
Twitter: www.twitter.com/aerbvi
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aer_2
Instagram: www.instagram.com/aerbvi/
Find a job — AER Job Exchange: www.aerbvi.org

For certification requirements:



Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP)

4732 N. Oracle Road, Suite 217
Tucson, AZ 85705
Phone: 520-887-6816
Fax: 520-887-6826
www.acvrep.org