Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments and/or Orientation and Mobility for Children (M.A.)

Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies
College of Health and Human Services

Reasons to Choose Our Program...

- Western Michigan University’s Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments and/or Orientation and Mobility for Children M.A. program prepares students interested in working as a teacher of children with visual impairments (TCVI) or an orientation and mobility specialist with children (OMC); it also offers a dual program of both TCVI and OMC.

- Dual certification helps professionals understand and meet the total needs of the child and is in high demand, particularly in rural areas.

- Curricula are tailored to students based on their needs related to geographic location and to their interests, background, and prior education and training. Program(s) can be completed in 1-2 years.

- Internship and employment opportunities exist in most states in the nation; prospective job sites are numerous and varied.

- The TCVI curriculum consists of 44 credit hours. The O&M for Children curriculum consists of 37 credit hours. The dual curriculum consists of 65 credits.

- Classes are small, with one-on-one instruction and mentoring being the norm.
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Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
WMU’s Blindness and Low Vision faculty have a strong knowledge base and are highly involved in research in a variety of areas. They frequently collaborate with colleagues as they work to advance the field and assist those with blindness and low vision to live fulfilling, independent lives.

Key areas of expertise include: how hybrid and quieter vehicles affect the mobility of pedestrians with visual impairments; challenges in crossing streets at roundabout intersections and other crosswalks without stop signs or signals; the design and operation of accessible pedestrian signals at complex signalized intersections; GPS use; adaptive technology, braille literacy, description of math images for blind students; and assessment of O&M and vision skills.

Admissions
All applicants must have completed a bachelor’s degree at an accredited college or university and must meet the qualifications for WMU graduate admissions. To apply, students must complete the WMU Graduate College application and the departmental application, which requires a résumé, two copies of transcripts, a personal and professional goals statement, and three reference forms. Based on a review of the application material, selected applicants may be invited for interviews. For more information and application materials visit the program website at: www.wmich.edu/visionstudies/academics/teacher/

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships
Some type of financial support is often available. As support levels vary, prospective students should contact program advisors to verify the support available under specific circumstances. A limited number of graduate assistantships are available.

Contacts
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Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.