Reasons to Choose Our Program...

- Western Michigan University’s Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (M.A.) program prepares vision rehabilitation therapists who offer adults who are blind or visually impaired information and resources they need to lead successful, productive, independent lives.

- The broad sphere of communication includes Braille, computers, handwriting, listening and recording technology, low-vision technology, mathematical calculation, and keyboarding.

- Traditional campus and distance education programs are available, including video streaming, teleconferencing, and Web-based instruction.

- Graduates receive assistance with finding employment, which is available in a variety of settings such as state and private agencies, public and residential schools, and Veterans Administration medical centers.

- The program can be completed in three to four semesters, after which the master’s degree is awarded.

- Students preparing to be vision rehabilitation therapists receive a total of 39 credit hours of instruction, including a professional field experience.
Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (M.A.)

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: adaptive technology, establishing national professional standards for vision rehabilitation therapists, and reading prescription labels with low vision.

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/vision/

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.