

## Higher Education Alternative Programs

	Portland State University
<b>General Description</b>	Teacher Preparation Program: Visually Impaired Learners. This teacher licensure/endorsement program prepares teachers nationally to work with blind and visually impaired learners. After one summer session on the PSU campus, all coursework is delivered on-line through the use of WebCt. Practica and student teaching placements are developed in the student's home area.
<b>School District Partners</b>	Oregon partners include each Regional Program for low incidence disabilities. Outside of Oregon, we current have partnerships in 14 states with various school districts. New partnerships and collaborative efforts are developed wherever the students reside.
<b>Contact Information</b>	James O. Bickford, Ed.D. 503.725.5495 <a href="mailto:bickford@pdx.edu">bickford@pdx.edu</a>
<b>Entrance Requirements</b>	BA/ BS; minimum 2.75 GPA. Must pass PRAXIS exam (Pre Professional Skills Test) or CBEST. Admission dependent upon writing sample, personal references and personal interview Please refer to: <a href="http://www.ed.pdx.edu/spedcoun/VIL">www.ed.pdx.edu/spedcoun/VIL</a>
<b>Number of Participants</b>	15-20
<b>Target Participants</b>	Geographically, the target area is the consortium of states representing the Western Regional Graduate Program (WICHE), although students are admitted from all students.
<b>Length of Program</b>	12 months full time (4 quarters) 2 years, part time (7 quarters)

<b>Hours earned (Differentiate between Quarters and Semesters)</b>	Licensure = 60 quarter hours
<b>License earned</b>	Oregon Initial teacher licensure / endorsement: Visually Impaired Learner
<b>Graduate/Master's Program</b>	A Master's degree is available upon completion of an additional 12 quarter hours of work, to include Master core classes.
<b>Undergraduate</b>	NO
<b>Continuing Teaching License</b>	Classes may be used as a focus area for the continuing teacher license. PSU has a fully developed continuing license program
<b>Courses (List All)</b>	<p>SPED 507 Student Teaching Seminar</p> <p>SPED 509 Supervised Teaching Experience</p> <p>SPED 519 Principles of Special Education</p> <p>SPED 521 Behavior Management</p> <p>SPED 525 Student Teaching</p> <p>SPED 540 Education of the Visually Impaired Learner</p> <p>SPED 541 Implications of Vision Problems in Children</p> <p>SPED 542 Assessment of the Visually Impaired Learner</p> <p>SPED 543 Reading and Literacy for Visually Impaired Learners</p> <p>SPED 544 Methods of Teaching Academics</p> <p>SPED 545 Orientation &amp; Mobility/ Daily Living Skills</p> <p>SPED 546 Braille I</p> <p>SPED 547 Advanced Braille (Mathematics)</p> <p>SPED 575 Braille/ Technology</p> <p>SPED 576 Visually Impaired Learners with Additional Disabilities</p>

<p><b>Program Content</b></p>	<p>The program to prepare teachers of children with vision impairments develops the skills to insure that children receive instructional modification and accommodation within the three primary service delivery models: itinerant instruction, resource/ self-contained classroom, and special schools. Technical skills for the adaptation of materials and methodologies are emphasized for the general curriculum and the ability to provide direct instruction in the expanded core curriculum is stressed. Portland State University prepares Teachers of students with Visual Impairments (TVIs) to provide specialized services in the least restrictive environment appropriate for individual needs. Student performance is evaluated in relation to the attainment of specific teaching skills with observable and measurable outcomes. The preparation and evaluation of a competent TVI is perceived as a joint responsibility of the University and field-based professionals who supervise practica, student teaching, and/or field based internships. PSU follows competencies developed by the Council for Exceptional Children, and the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Students complete the program with over 600 hours of practicum and internship experience with licensed professionals, assuring that skills and knowledge are applied across a continuum of education settings. All curricula are based upon validated research and best practices.</p> <p>Please refer to: <a href="http://www.ed.pdx.edu/spedcoun/VIL">www.ed.pdx.edu/spedcoun/VIL</a></p>
<p><b>Field Experiences (i.e. Student Teaching, Internships)</b></p>	<p>Program requires 2 practica (3 quarter hours each / 100 contact hours) and a full time student teaching experience (12 quarter hours / 400 contact hours) working with children who have visual impairments or blindness.</p>
<p><b>Delivery Models (i.e. Distance Education, Seminar, Face to Face Instruction)</b></p>	<p>Initial summer: face-to-face instruction on PSU campus. 12-15 quarter hours. Remainder of program delivered via distance education.</p>

<b>Retention/Mentoring Information</b>	Student completion rate is current at 94%. All students in the program are assigned a local mentor/ licensed teacher and are also connected to a former student as a "buddy" to assist through the program.
<b>Exit Requirements</b>	Completion of all coursework, practica and student teaching, 2 work samples and a passing score on the PRAXIS, specialized skills and knowledge exam - visually impaired.
<b>Completed cohorts</b>	Four cohorts have completed the program under the distance education model. Program to prepare teachers of children with visual impairments has been in existence since 1964.
<b>Unique Characteristics of the Program</b>	This program to prepare teachers of students with visual impairments is unique in that it addresses a national shortage of teachers and not just a local or regional shortage. The majority of students coming in to the program is from rural areas, or from states without university programs, or where students are prohibited from attending a traditional university program due to distance, family responsibilities, or jobs. As a member of the Western Regional Graduate Program, non-resident tuition is waived for member states.
<b>Costs</b>	2006-2007 tuition costs are approximately \$14,500. Federally supported grants are available to eligible students paying up to 80% of the cost
<b>Address Disability Ranges &gt;&gt; Proportion of course work</b>	All coursework focuses on blindness and visual impairment. Age range: birth to adulthood.
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*Description of your program on the web site – please review and update for 2006:*

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