

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON
Vision Studies Program
School for Global Inclusion and Social Development

Why a Degree in Vision Studies?

University of Massachusetts Boston Vision Studies program is the only online program in New England that offers graduate degree programs in the following areas:

- Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
- Orientation and Mobility Specialists

The university is seeking graduate applicants in each of the six New England states and other states in high-need, and is particularly interested in expanding enrollment of students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds as well as students with disabilities.

The UMass Vision Studies program has grant funding to address a national and regional shortage of teachers and related service professionals with specialized knowledge in visual impairments. Students meeting admission and grant scholarship requirements may be eligible for tuition support.

The UMass Boston Vision Studies program uses a combination of web-based courses, one in-person course for O&M, and field-based activities which allow students to build a portfolio of professional skills and experiences.

Requirements:

Admissions to all University of Massachusetts Boston Graduate Programs are coordinated through the [Office of Graduate Admissions](#) and are completed through the online application. The program requires 2 letters of recommendation, evidence of MTEL testing for TVI, official transcripts with a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0, and a two-part essay.

Application deadline: 1 March, 2022

All application documents must be received and processed by 1 March. Note: It can take up to 14 days for Graduate Admissions to process documents. For additional academic information please visit our website at www.nercve.org. For scholarship information please contact Dr. Laura Bozeman.

Laura Bozeman Ph.D.
Professor and Graduate Program Director
Vision Studies Program
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Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI):

Teaching Skills for Independence to Learners with Visual Impairments



What might I do as an TVI?

- Teach an 11th grader how to interpret a tactile map for his U.S. history class
- Instruct a student who is blind to read and write braille, a life-long literacy skill
- Investigate possible career paths with a high school freshman who has low vision
- Teach a student with multiple disabilities how to use apps on a tablet to reinforce language skills
- Brainstorm ideas for sports accommodations with a fifth grader who has low vision and wants to play basketball with his best friend
- Teach a middle school student with low vision to use a magnifier to read a graphic novel
- Assist a toddler who is blind to listen for and find a beeping ball
- Show a student with low vision how to download the latest version of a bestseller on a tablet where she can adjust the size and contrast of the print
- Motivate an infant who is totally blind to engage in touching the parts of a musical toy
- Teach a seven-year-old student who is blind to independently make a banana smoothie
- Work on social skills with a student who has low vision by role playing ways to initiate a conversation with a peer
- Teach students about their visual impairments and how to advocate for their needs and accommodations
- Collaborate with classroom teachers and other professionals to be sure students with visual impairments have access to all aspects of the curriculum
- Communicate and work closely with parents of children with visual impairments so that they can become key players on their child's educational team



TSBVI

Why would I like this job?

- Enjoy work that is different, interesting, and challenging every day
- Work one-on-one with children ages birth through 21 years
- Teach children with varying abilities who are blind or have low vision
- Make a real difference in students' lives by increasing their skills and independence
- Build close working relationships with students and their parents
- Learn from and collaborate with other professionals to maximize student success

**Fun and creative
use of my
energies**



Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

How do I become a TVI?

- Obtain a Bachelor's or Master's in Education with concentration in Visual Impairment or Blindness and teaching certification
- Add an endorsement in Visual Impairment to your existing teaching certificate
- Access university distance learning or on-campus programs

Learn braille – it's not as difficult as you think!

Grants and/or stipends for tuition often available

Where would I work as a TVI?

- Multiple classrooms as an itinerant (traveling) teacher
- Public school resource room
- Residential school classroom
- Homes of families with infants/children with visual impairments

100% job placement

Positions available worldwide

Potential employment opportunities include:

- Individual public-school districts or multi-district cooperatives
- Residential schools for the blind
- Private schools
- Government agencies
- Private contracting
- Universities

For more information:

**Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired**

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aer_2

Instagram: www.instagram.com/aerbvi/

Find a job — AER Job Exchange: www.aerbvi.org

For certification requirements:

Check your local department of education for details and requirements for certification