



Multi-University Consortium
Teacher Preparation Programs
In Sensory Impairments

Project O&M is funded by the Utah State Board of Education Special Education Personnel Preparation Interagency Agreement through IDEA Funds.

**Application for Grant Support through
University of Utah/Multi-University Consortium &
University of Northern Colorado:
Utah Orientation and Mobility Project (Project O&M)**

Project O&M:

The project will prepare scholars through an AER approved Orientation and Mobility endorsement program at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). The graduate-level endorsement program will prepare scholars through an Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) accredited program that provides the competencies and knowledge required, in part, for national certification through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).

Scholars will complete Project O&M as a cohort. Cohort 1 will begin Fall 2020 and complete Summer/Fall 2021. Cohort 2 will begin Fall 2021 and complete Summer/Fall 2022.

Eligible Applicants:

Applicants must hold (or acquire prior to entering a cohort) a Utah Special Education License/Visual Impairments Endorsement (K-12) or a Utah Preschool Special Education License/Visual Impairments Endorsement (Birth – 5).

Application Process – no later than July 1st:

1. Apply for admission to the UNC O&M program.

<https://www.unco.edu/graduate-school/degrees-and-programs/doctoral-minors-licensure-endorsement-certificate-programs/school-orientation-and-mobility-endorsement.aspx>.

- Apply for: Spring 2021
Select: Graduate Application
Program: Licensure: School Orientation and Mobility Endorsement (Ages - 21)(Extended Campus)
2. Provide documentation of UNC acceptance once received.
3. Project O&M scholars will complete required University of Utah coursework via contract courses. Registration information will be sent prior to Fall semester. Individuals interested in acquiring a Master's degree as part of the program are encouraged to contact Dr. Bischke no later than June 1st.
4. Submit a complete grant application (see attached) no later than 4:00 pm on July 1, 2020.

Note: Scholars applying for cohort 2 may be placed in cohort 1 if not all available slots for cohort 1 are filled.
Applications received after the deadline may not be considered.

Grant Recipients:

Notifications will be made to applicants by within 3 weeks of the deadline by e-mail.

Submission Information:

Submit a hardcopy of the completed application and all other required information by the deadline, addressed to Dr. Chris Bischke, to the Department of Special Education or mail to:

Dr. Chris Bischke
University of Utah
Dept. Of Special Education
1721 Campus Center Drive, SAEC 2269
Salt Lake City UT 84112

****NOTE**:** INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

**Application for Grant Support through
University of Utah/Multi University Consortium &
University of Northern Colorado:
Utah Orientation and Mobility Project (Project O&M)**

Date: _____ uNID and/or UNC ID#: _____

Name: _____ SS#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

1. Present Employment: _____
Part-Time Full-Time Not currently working
2. Preferred Orientation and Mobility endorsement cohort:
Cohort 1 (Fall 2020 – Summer/Fall 2021)
Cohort 2 (Fall 2021 – Summer/Fall 2021)
3. Seeking to complete:
Endorsement Only
Master’s Degree and Endorsement
4. Do you currently have a Utah Special Education Teaching License (K-12) or a Utah Preschool Special Education License (birth – 5)?
Yes No If yes, which license?
If no, when will you be eligible/recommended for a Utah Special Education license?
5. Do you currently have a Utah Visual Impairment Endorsement?
Yes No
If no, when will you be eligible/recommended for a Utah Visual Impairment Endorsement?
6. Have you applied for or been admitted to the University of Northern Colorado’s Orientation and Mobility Endorsement Program
Yes No Date application was completed: _____
7. If seeking a Master’s degree, have you applied for or been admitted to the University of Utah/Department of Special Education as a graduate student?
Yes No Date application was completed: _____

Other Required Information:

1. Professional Career Statement (2 pages, typewritten, single-spaced) indicating your professional goals and future professional plans upon completing this program.
2. Copies (need not be official copies) of all university transcripts and certificates/licenses.
3. Resumé or Curriculum Vita
4. Signed Consortium Service Obligation Document (See pgs. 4 -5 of application)
5. Documentation of UNC acceptance

A personal interview may be requested of grant applicants prior to notifications being made to recipients.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ATTACHED SERVICE OBLIGATION FORM

Signature

Date

As Grant Awards are based in part on student performance, I understand I must maintain a 3.0 GPA and provide written notification of "withdraws," incompletes, and any grade below a B-. Failure to do so may result in a loss of grant funding.

INITIAL

Multi-University Consortium Teacher Preparation Program in Sensory Impairments Service Obligation

Agreement to serve children with disabilities as a condition for accepting stipends or tuition reimbursement provided through a grant awarded to the Multi-University Consortium/ Department of Special Education at the University of Utah. Project O&M is funded by the Utah State Board of Education Special Education Personnel Preparation Interagency Agreement through IDEA funds.

1. **Service obligation.** Students who receive money from these grant funds are obligated, when they complete their program, to work as an Orientation and Mobility (O&M) instructor in a setting that serves students (infants, toddlers, children or youth) who are blind or visually impaired including those with additional disabilities. Students must be employed a minimum of .5 FTE for a period of one year for every year they receive this funding or employed a minimum of .25 FTE for a period of two years for every year of funding received or repay grant funds received. The service obligation fulfillment will not begin until a student completes the program and receives ACVREP certification.

Students who receive funding but do not complete their program prior to the end of the grant funding period must either (a) complete their program even if the funding is no longer available and then complete the service obligation associated with the amount of funding received or (b) must repay the funds they have received.

2. **Failure to complete the program.** Students who are terminated from or drop out of the program must repay the grant funds they have received.
3. **Type of positions that fulfill the service obligation.** Students who complete this program must be employed as an O&M instructor in positions that serve children (infants, toddlers, children or youth) who are blind or visually impaired including those with additional disabilities. Scholars may be dually employed as a TVI/O&M.
4. **When service must be completed.** The student must complete the service obligation during a period of time that equals the amount of obligated time plus two years. The period begins when the program is completed and ACVREP certification is acquired (day one of the month after completion of the degree and/or program). For example, if a student received money for one year s/he must complete a minimum of one year of service. This would need to be completed within 3 years (the one year they are obligated to serve + two years).
5. **Repayment.** If the student does not complete the service obligation s/he must repay the University of Utah the amount received plus interest and a service collection fee. If that student meets part of the service obligation (that is, works for some but not all of the required time), s/he must repay only the balance of funds not already “worked off.” That is, if a student received funding for one year, s/he would be obligated to work as an O&M instructor for one year. If s/he taught for only 1 year at .25 FTE, ½ year’s worth of funding plus interest and service fees on that money would need to be repaid.
6. **Reporting (“Exit certification”).** When the student graduates or finishes the program, s/he will receive a notice of the number of years s/he needs to work in a position serving children who are

blind or visually impaired, the total amount of money received, and the time period during which this employment must occur.

7. **Agreement to furnish necessary information.** Until the student has finished the service obligation (or the time period for completing it has expired, meaning the student has failed to complete it) the student must provide the program director an address and phone number where s/he can be contacted and promptly let the program director know whenever this changes. A form will be sent each year asking about employment during the past year. The form must be completed and returned to the program director. If the student fails to complete and promptly return the form or fails to keep the university informed of her/his current address the university will report the student's failure to comply to the appropriate federal agency.

8. **Satisfactory progress.** The student must make satisfactory progress toward completing the endorsement program and ACVREP certification. If a student's grades fall below a B- or their GPA falls below a 3.0 and they are no longer eligible to receive the funding but not so low that the student was dropped from the program, this would not affect the time period for completing the work requirement or paying back the stipend or tuition reimbursement. If, however, a student voluntarily leaves the program or is dropped from the program per departmental or university policies, the time period for repaying funds received would begin at the time the student left the program.

9. **Deferrals.** There are certain conditions that would give the student more time to complete the service obligation or pay back the money. These are if the student (1) was enrolled full-time at an institution of higher education; (2) was on active duty in the armed services for a time limited to three years; (3) was volunteering in the Peace Corps or Title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973; (4) had a disability that prevented her/him from working for a period of time of not more than three years; (5) had to care for a disabled family member for a period limited to one year; or is significantly impacted by a natural disaster or a pandemic.

No interest would be charged on funds that a student had to pay back during the deferral period.

10. **Exceptions** If the student developed a disability that was expected to continue indefinitely and thus could not work, or died, the obligation would be canceled.

_____ **I have read and accept these terms for receiving grant support from the Multi-University Consortium.**

Signature

Date

Please retain a copy of this document for your files.