



**Scholar Application for Grant Support through
*Project TSDBOT: Preparing Special Education Teachers with Endorsement in Deafblindness
and Occupational Therapists through an Interdisciplinary Program to Improve Services***

Eligible Applicants:

To participate in this project, scholars will need to be accepted into the Masters in Occupational Therapy program and accepted into the project. The following information pertains only to the TSDBOT Project. For information about applying to the Masters in Occupational Therapy Program please go to <https://health.utah.edu/occupational-recreational-therapies/degrees/mot>

Application Deadline:

For OT scholars, applications will be accepted each year (2021-2024), until the available positions are filled each year. The number of available scholarships is limited. Scholarship recipients will be notified between March and when the positions are filled. MOT/OTD scholars will begin their MOT/OTD program in August of the year they are accepted and the TSDBOT program will begin the following Spring.

Contact Dr. Lorie Richards to discuss the requirements of the program in detail if you are interested in applying.

Submission Information:

Submit an electronic copy of this application (completed and signed) and all other required information to Dr. Lorie Richards at lorie.richards@hsc.utah.edu.

****NOTE**: INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, H325K200015. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.



Scholar Application for Grant Support through
Project TSDBOT: Preparing Special Education Teachers with Endorsement in Deafblindness
and Occupational Therapists through an Interdisciplinary Program to Improve Services

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Attach the following:

1. Professional Career Statement (no more than 2 pages, 12 pt font, single-spaced) indicating your professional goals and future professional plans and how being part of Project TSDBOT would further your goals. Also indicate whether you are fluent in languages other than English and if you have experience with diverse ethnic and cultural populations.
2. Resumé or Curriculum Vita

Please note that a personal interview may be requested of grant applicants prior to notifications being made to recipients.

Should you be selected for Project TSDBOT, you will be required to sign the attached service obligation form prior to receiving any funding. Therefore, please read carefully and consider these obligations prior to applying.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ATTACHED SERVICE OBLIGATION FORM. 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.

Signature

Date

Project TSDBOT Service Obligation

(Agreement to serve children with disabilities as a condition for accepting stipends or tuition reimbursement provided through a grant awarded to the Departments of Special Education and Occupational & Recreational Therapy at the University of Utah, the U.S. Department of Education, Preparation of Special Education, Related Services and Early Intervention Personnel to Serve Infants, Toddlers, and Children with Low Incidence Disabilities (CFDA# 84.325K)).

1. **Service obligation:** Students who receive money from these grant funds are obligated when they complete their program to either work in a setting that serves students (infants, toddlers, children or youth) with disabilities (students who are deafblind to the extent possible) for a specific period of time as described below or to repay grant funds received. They must be employed within a full-time position for a period of two years for every year that they receive this funding. For example, if a student received money for one year, they would be obligated to teach for two years.

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 in positions that serve children with disabilities (students who are deafblind to the extent possible). These may be (a) full-time positions (as defined by the employer) in special education or related services or in other positions (for DB scholars: positions in which the majority of children served have sensory impairments); (b) in regular classrooms where their role is to provide services as specified by IDEA to students with disabilities, or (c) in part-time positions serving children with disabilities that, when added together would equal sufficient full-time employment to fulfill the service obligation within the allotted time.
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 five years. The period begins when the program is completed (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 two years of service. This would need to be completed within 7 years (the two years they are obligated to serve + five years).
5. **Repayment:** If the student does not complete the service obligation s/he must repay the federal government 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 teach students with sensory

impairments for two years. If s/he taught for only 1 year, 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 with disabilities, 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 project 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 degree or teacher education program. If a student's grades drop too low to receive the funding during the next semester 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; or (5) had to care for a disabled family member for a period limited to one year.

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.