

505-3-.82 SPECIAL EDUCATION VISUAL IMPAIRMENT ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM

(1) Purpose. This rule states field-specific content standards for approving endorsement programs that prepare individuals to teach students with visual impairments in grades P-12. This rule supplements requirements in Rule 505-3-.01, Requirements and Standards for Approving Professional Education Units and Educator Preparation Programs.

(2) Requirements

(a) A state-approved professional education unit shall offer this field as an endorsement to level 4 or higher professional teaching certificate in any area.

(b) The preparation program described in program planning forms, catalogs, and syllabi shall address the following standards, published by the Council for Exceptional Children:

1. Foundations

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of Federal entitlements that provide specialized equipment and materials for individuals with visual impairments.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who know the historical foundations of education of individuals with visual impairments.

(iii) The program shall prepare candidates who know educational definitions, identification criteria, labeling issues, and incidence and prevalence figures for individuals with visual impairments.

(iv) The program shall prepare candidates who know basic terminology related to the structure and function of the human visual system.

(v) The program shall prepare candidates who know basic terminology related to diseases and disorders of the human visual system.

(vi) The program shall prepare candidates who know are familiar with issues and trends in special education and the field of visual impairment.

2. Development and Characteristics of Learners

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the development of the visual system.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the development of secondary senses when vision is impaired.

(iii) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects of visual impairment on development.

(iv) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the impact of visual impairment on learning and experience.

(v) The program shall prepare candidates who understand psychosocial aspects of visual impairment.

(vi) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects of medications on the visual system.

3. Individual Learning Differences

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects of visual impairment on the family and the reciprocal impact on the individual's self-esteem.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the impact of additional exceptionalities on individuals with visual impairments.

(iii) The program shall prepare candidates who know the attitudes and actions of teachers that affect the behaviors of individuals with visual impairments.

4. Instructional Strategies

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching Braille reading and writing.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching handwriting to individuals with low vision.

(iii) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching signature writing to individuals who are blind.

(iv) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching listening and compensatory auditory skills.

(v) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching typing and keyboarding skills.

(vi) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching technology skills to individuals with visual impairments.

(vii) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching use of the abacus, talking calculator, tactile graphics, and adapted science equipment.

(viii) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching basic concepts to individuals with visual impairments.

(ix) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching visual efficiency skills and use of print adaptations, optical devices, and non-optical devices.

(x) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching organization and study skills to individuals with visual impairments.

(xi) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies to prepare individuals for structures pre-cane orientation and mobility assessment and instruction.

(xii) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching perceptual skills to individuals with visual impairments.

(xiii) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching human sexuality to individuals with visual impairments.

(xiv) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching adapted physical and recreational skills to individuals with visual impairments.

(xv) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching social, daily living, and functional life skills to individuals with visual impairments.

(xvi) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching career-vocational skills and providing vocational counseling for individuals with visual impairments.

(xvii) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for promoting self-advocacy in individuals with visual impairments.

(xviii) The program shall prepare candidates who know techniques for modifying instructional methods and materials for individuals with visual impairments.

(xix) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies to prepare students with progressive eye conditions to achieve a positive transition to alternative skills.

(xx) The program shall prepare candidates who teach individuals with visual impairments to use thinking, problem solving, and other cognitive strategies.

(xxi) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare adapted or modified materials in Braille, accessible print, and other formats.

(xxii) The program shall prepare candidates who transcribe, proofread, and interline materials in contracted literary and Nemeth Braille codes.

(xxiii) The program shall prepare candidates who use Braillewriter, slate and stylus, and computer technology to produce Braille materials.

(xxiv) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare individuals with visual impairments to access information and services from the community.

5. Learning Environments and Social Interactions

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the roles of para-educators who work directly with individuals with visual impairments.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who know role modes with visual impairments and their importance.

(iii) The program shall prepare candidates who enhance instruction for individuals with visual impairments through modification of the environment.

(iv) The program shall prepare candidates who design multi-sensory learning environments that encourage active participation by individuals with visual impairments in group and individual activities.

(v) The program shall prepare candidates who create learning environments that encourage self-advocacy and independence for individuals with visual impairments.

6. Communication

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching alternatives to nonverbal communication.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare individuals with visual impairments to respond constructively to societal attitudes and actions.

7. Instructional Planning

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the relationships among assessment, individualized education plan development, and placement as they affect vision-related services.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with model programs for individuals with visual impairments.

(iii) The program shall prepare candidates who select and use technologies to accomplish instructional objectives for individuals with visual impairments.

(iv) The program shall prepare candidates who sequence, implement, and evaluate learning objectives based on the expanded core curriculum for individuals with visual impairments.

(v) The program shall prepare candidates who obtain and organize special materials to implement instructional goals for individuals with visual impairments.

8. Assessment

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who know specialized terminology used in assessing individuals with visual impairments.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with ethical considerations, laws, and policies for assessment of individuals with visual impairments.

(iii) The program shall prepare candidates who know specialized policies on referral and placement procedures for individuals with visual impairments.

(iv) The program shall prepare candidates who know specialized procedures for screening, pre-referral, referral, and identification of individuals with visual impairments.

(v) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with alternative assessment techniques for individuals with visual impairments.

(vi) The program shall prepare candidate who understand interpretation and application of scores from assessments of individuals with visual impairments.

(vii) The program shall prepare candidates who interpret eye reports and other vision-related diagnostic information.

(viii) The program shall prepare candidates who use disability-specific assessment instruments.

(ix) The program shall prepare candidates who adapts and use assessment procedures when evaluating individuals with visual impairments.

(x) The program shall prepare candidates who maintain disability-related records for individuals with visual impairments.

(xi) The program shall prepare candidates who gather background information and family history related to the individual's visual status.

(xii) The program shall prepare candidates who interpret and use assessment data for instructional planning with individuals with visual impairments.

9. Professional and Ethical Practice

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who are award of organizations and publications relevant to the field of visual impairment.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who participate in the activities of professional organizations in the field of visual impairment.

10. Collaboration

(i) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with strategies for assisting families and other team members in planning appropriate transitions for individuals with visual impairments.

(ii) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with services, networks, publications for and organizations of individuals with visual impairments.

(iii) The program shall prepare candidates who help families and other team members understand the impact of a visual impairment on learning and experience.

(iv) The program shall prepare candidates who structure and supervise the activities of para-educators and tutors who work with individuals with visual impairments.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200