

# Orientation & Mobility Certification

## Test Preparation Modules

Webinar Series:  
February 27, 2017 – June 7, 2017

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Webinar  
Dr. Rebecca Renshaw



Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

### PaTTAN's Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is to support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education, and to build the capacity of local educational agencies to serve students who receive special education services.

### PDE's Commitment to Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Our goal for each child is to ensure Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams begin with the general education setting with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services before considering a more restrictive environment.

### Agenda

- Introductions
  - Developing a Professional Community of Practice
- Orientation to GoTo Webinar
  - What to expect each session
- How to apply for ACVREP O&M Certification

## Introductions

- Name
- Location
- University Where Trained
- Place of Employment
- Experience

## Webinar Schedule

Meeting Dates	Topic
<b>Monday, Feb. 27</b>	Introductions and Organization to the Facilitated Study Guide
<b>Monday, March 6</b>	Review Study Guide – Module 1: Professional Information
<b>Thursday, March 23</b>	Review Study Guide – Module 2: Relevant Medical Information & Module 3: O&M Assessment
<b>Thursday, April 6</b>	Review Study Guide – Module 4: O&M Instruction Program & Module 5: O&M Related Concepts
<b>Thursday, April 20</b>	Review Study Guide – Module 6: Orientation Strategies and Skills
<b>Monday, May 1</b>	Review Study Guide – Module 7: Mobility Skills
<b>Wednesday, May 17</b>	Review Study Guide – Module 8: Use of Senses & Module 9: Additional Disabilities
<b>Wednesday, May 31</b>	Review Study Guide – Module 10: Human Development and Diversity & Module 11: Environmental Accessibility
	Complete Practice Exam with approved voucher code
<b>Wednesday, June 7</b>	Review Study Guide – Module 12: Psychosocial Implications
	Review Practice Exam

## Study Guide – What to Expect

**Module title and number of questions to expect in this domain on the exam**

**References list the required readings by domain area**

**Writable word document to thoroughly document responses and flag questions**

**Domain 1 Module: Professional Information (5 test questions)**

**References:**

In Wiener, W., Welsh, R., & Blasch, B. (Eds.). (2010). Foundations of orientation and mobility (3rd edition) v. 1. New York: AFB Press.

Bledsoe, W. pp.434-485. The originators of orientation and mobility training.  
Neustadt-Noy, N & LaGrow, S. pp. 533-568. The development of the profession of orientation and mobility around the world.

Wiener, W. R., & Siffemann, E. pp. 486-532. The development of the profession of orientation and mobility.  
Resources pp. 679-686 and Appendix A. pp. 652-656.

**Test Objectives:**

1.1 Identify professional resources to obtain services, support, and/or information related to visual impairment.

A. How would an O&M specialist utilize the following resources for services and/or information?  
 1. VA Blind Centers  
 2. Private agencies for the blind and visually impaired  
 3. State schools for the blind and visually impaired  
 4. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
 5. Department of Education

B. What are the benefits to an O&M specialist to know about and utilize the following as professional resources for support and information?

## Resources to Reference



## Certified Personnel

### Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS)

A professional specializing in teaching travel skills to people with visual impairments including the use of canes, guide dogs, electronic travel aids, and sighted guide  
(Koenig & Holbrook, 2000)

CSPG No. 202  
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**Staffing Assignment**  
**Orientation and Mobility Specialist PK-12**

The Orientation and Mobility Specialist involves the knowledge and competence required to provide orientation and mobility services to persons with blindness or visual impairments that adversely impact educational performance in grades PK-12.

Required Credential  
Staffing Assignment  
Special Considerations  
Restrictions  
References

**Required Credential:**

A person employed in the position of Orientation and Mobility Specialist must hold a current credential as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist issued by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) or the National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC) issued by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB).

**Staffing Assignment:**

A person employed in a position as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist is qualified to perform the following duties and functions:

- Conduct formal and informal assessments to evaluate Orientation and Mobility strengths and needs;
- Develop, recommend, and implement appropriate service delivery plans;
- Consult with other education and rehabilitation personnel and family regarding the impact of blindness and visual impairment on the Orientation and Mobility process;
- Provide training and direct instruction in Orientation and Mobility techniques and in the use of Orientation and Mobility materials and devices including visual efficiency skills, utilization of residual vision, concept and sensory development, spatial orientation, utilization of tactile, visual, and auditory maps;
- Travel skills in both indoor and outdoor environments;
- Utilization of mass transportation systems;
- Self-determination skills; and
- Familiarization to environments.

### Road to ACVREP Certification



**ACVREP**  
Academy for Certification of Vision  
Rehabilitation & Education Professionals

Plan to take the ACVREP O&M Certification Exam



**COMS**  
CERTIFIED ORIENTATION  
AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST

Orientation and Mobility Specialist  
Certification Handbook

# Certification Process: Step 1

## Other Important Information

The fees for the Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist Certification:

**Eligibility Fee:** \$130.00

**Exam Fee:** \$435.00

**Certification Fee:** \$115.00

A full or partial scholarship may be available to assist you with the payment of the exam fee.

## Quick Links

[Exam Registration Fee Assistance Program](#)

[View all fees](#)

## STEPS TO COMS CERTIFICATION

### 1. Create an Account

Create an account on the ACVREP website.

## Quick Links

[Register for a new account](#)

[Certification Process Timeline](#)

# Certification Process: Step 2

## 2. Apply for Eligibility

- Log into your account and click on the link for [Apply for Eligibility](#)
- If you are applying in Category 1 and still a student in a vision program you do not need to upload any documentation with your application to be declared Eligible
- If you are applying in Category 1 and have graduated you will need to upload your completed and signed Clinical Competency Evaluation and we will need to have received an official copy of your university transcript before you can be declared Eligible
- If you are applying in Category 2 you will need to upload your completed and signed Clinical Competency Evaluation form, your Core Domain Checklist and we will need to receive an official copy of your university transcript before you can be declared Eligible

Allow 5 days for ACVREP to review your application to determine it is complete. If there is missing documentation you will be notified by email that we are requesting missing information. Once you have been declared Eligible you will receive a notification that your status has changed.

## Quick Links

[Eligibility Details](#)

[Clinical Competency Evaluation Form](#)

[Alternative Learning Pre-Approval Form](#)

[Off-site Supervisor Contract](#)

[Core Domain Area Checklist](#)

## Criteria to be Determined Eligible

Category 1	Category 2
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## Certification Process: Step 3

### 3. Schedule Your Exam

In order to facilitate a scheduling process that is efficient and fair to all candidates, ACVREP has implemented a scheduling procedure that allows all candidates to sit for the certification examination following a mandatory 30 calendar day waiting period (or any business day thereafter based on candidate preference).

1. Log into your online ACVREP account
2. Select the "Schedule Your Exam" link to the right of the page. This will take you to the examination options. Select the appropriate certification exam that you are applying for.
3. Once you have selected the appropriate exam, fill in the requested Exam Registration Form.

#### Quick Links

[Register for your test-taker account](#)  
[Schedule your Exam](#)  
[Exam Registration Fee Assistance Program](#)  
[Purchase Study Guide](#)

**If you do not pass the exam the first time** you are allowed one free retake of the exam. As soon as you have been notified that you failed the exam, you will be able to schedule an Exam Retake by logging into your account and clicking on [Schedule your Exam](#). The database will recognize that this is your second and free retake of the exam and you will not be charged a fee.

## Certification Process: Step 4

### 4. Apply For Certification

Once you have been notified that you have passed the exam you will be able to log into your online account with ACVREP and apply for certification using the [Apply for Certification](#) link. If you originally applied as a Category 1 student please note that you cannot be Certified until you have uploaded your completed and signed Clinical Competency Evaluation into your account and we have received your official university transcript into our office.

Allow 5 days for ACVREP to review your application to determine it is complete. If there is missing documentation you will be notified by email that we are requesting missing information. Once you have been Certified you will receive a notification that your status has changed.

Once you have been certified a digital copy of your certificate will be placed in the My Documents section of your account. Allow up to 14 days from Certification to receive your original certificate through the mail.

### Quick Links

[Apply For Certification](#)

## Wrap-Up

Questions?  
Clarifications?



## Contact Information

[www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

Rebecca Renshaw, PhD, MSL,  
COMS

[rebeccarensshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccarensshaw@yahoo.com)



Lynn Fox, EdD, COMS

PaTTAN Pittsburgh

[lfox@pattan.net](mailto:lfox@pattan.net)

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

Tom Wolf, Governor