

Orientation & Mobility Certification Test Preparation Modules

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

February 27, 2017
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
Monday, Feb. 27	Introductions and Organization to the Facilitated Study Guide
Monday, March 6	Review Study Guide – Module 1: Professional Information
Thursday, March 23	Review Study Guide – Module 2: Relevant Medical Information & Module 3: O&M Assessment
Thursday, April 6	Review Study Guide – Module 4: O&M Instruction Program & Module 5: O&M Related Concepts
Thursday, April 20	Review Study Guide – Module 6: Orientation Strategies and Skills
Monday, May 1	Review Study Guide – Module 7: Mobility Skills
Wednesday, May 17	Review Study Guide – Module 8: Use of Senses & Module 9: Additional Disabilities
Wednesday, May 31	Review Study Guide – Module 10: Human Development and Diversity & Module 11: Environmental Accessibility
	Complete Practice Exam with approved voucher code
Wednesday, June 7	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

Writeable 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.

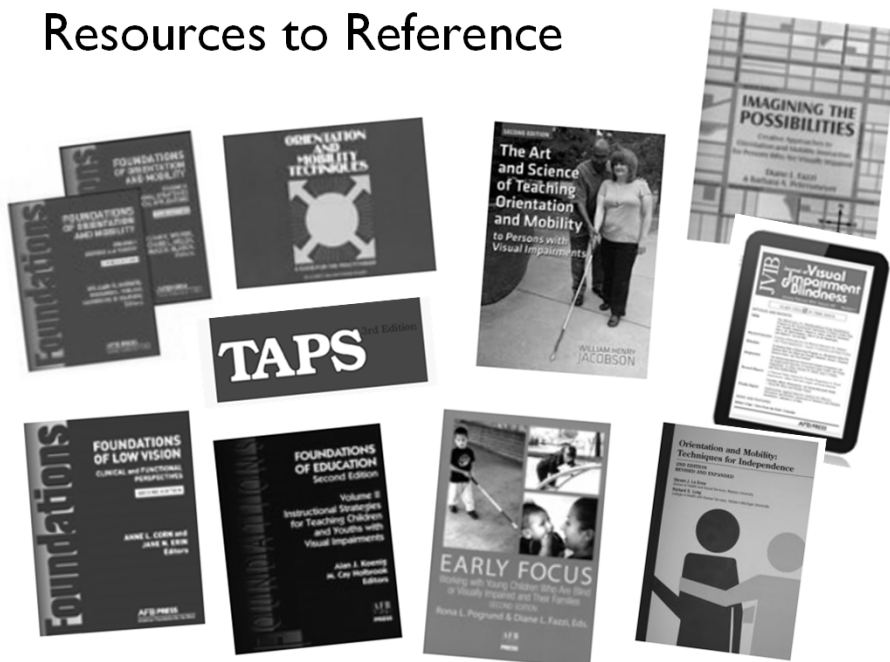
Bledsoe, W. pp.434-485. The originators of orientation and mobility training.
Neustadt-Noy, N & LaGrow, S. pp. 533-568. The development of the profession of orientation and mobility around the world.

Wiener, W. R., & Siffermann, 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 Consideration:
Restrictions:
Reference:

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 Board (NBPCB).

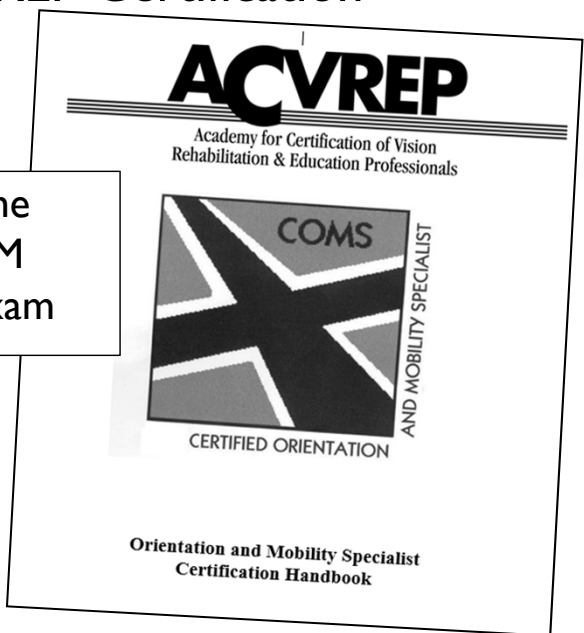
Staffing Assignment:

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;
- Consulting 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 environment.

Road to ACVREP Certification

Plan to take the
ACVREP O&M
Certification Exam



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

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

Rebecca Renshaw, PhD, MSL,
COMS

rebeccarensshaw@yahoo.com



Lynn Fox, EdD, COMS
PaTTAN Pittsburgh
lfox@pattan.net

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf, Governor