



At Illinois State University, we are thrilled to announce that we are now accepting applications for our next cohort who will complete the **Master of Science in Education in Low Vision and Blindness**. Illinois State University was one of the first established training programs in the nation with a specialization in Special Education Low Vision and Blindness. Our faculty include leaders in the field with practical classroom experience. We expanded from an undergraduate to a graduate-level program in Low Vision and Blindness in 2020. You can learn more about the graduate program at https://education.illinoisstate.edu/ms_sed/low-vision-blindness-masters/

Sign up for one of four online informational sessions scheduled for Nov. 9th, Dec. 8th, Jan. 17th, or Feb. 6th <https://connect.illinoisstate.edu/portal/grad-ms-lvb>

Program Purpose

The program is fully online. It is designed for working teachers (gen ed or special ed) who want to learn specialized skills in low vision and blindness. As a graduate, you will be prepared to gain an endorsement in special education - blind/visually impaired. This enables you to work in the school system as a teacher for the visually impaired. Graduates will earn an **MS Ed in Low Vision and Blindness**.

Application

The deadline for application is March 15th, 2023 with a Summer 2023 start date. The program will admit one cohort at a time. This means that the next chance for participation will be Summer 2025. Go to the [website](#) to access the application portal and to see admission requirements.

Program Components

The program will begin Summer 23. It is 5 semesters long with the first cohort slated for a December 2024 graduation date. Teachers can continue to work while completing the program including the capstone in the last semester. Over those 5 semesters you will take 32 hours of coursework including the following courses and topics (go to <https://coursefinder.illinoisstate.edu/directory/sed/> for more information on each course).

- SED 413 (3 hours) Introduction to Visual Impairments
- SED 432 (3 hours) Neurological Visual Impairments
- SED 434 (2 hours) Orientation and Mobility
- SED 433 (3 hours) Braille
- SED 435 (3 hours) Access Technology
- SED 438 (3 hours) Nemeth Code
- SED 436 (3 hours) Assessment
- SED 437 (3 hours) Reading and Math Methods for Blind Students

- SED 439 (3 hours) Expanded Core Curriculum
- SED 498 (6 hours) Capstone/Clinical Experience

Working while Completing the Capstone

Admission into the program requires candidates to have a teaching license and to have successfully completed a student teaching experience from an accredited institution. Thus, the MS Ed LVB program allows students to add an additional teaching endorsement. State requirements do not require an additional student teaching experience when adding an endorsement. However, we felt clinical hours were an important piece in teacher preparation. Therefore, we designed the clinical for this MS Ed LVB program to be flexible so that we could create an experience that would meet student needs.

In the last semester of the MS Ed LVB program students will work directly with children. But, this could mean an intensive week-long experience, evenings, Saturdays, or something else. Working teachers who have a child with a visual impairment in their current classroom will likely be able to design a clinical experience that is met during their current workday. But, for all university students in the program, we will have a minimum number of required hours of direct teaching experiences with P-21 student with visual impairments that must be achieved within the semester. This experience will require application of methods and pedagogy covered in the first four semesters of the program.

Connect and Engage

I encourage you to reach out to me with questions. I would also encourage you to connect with me to let me know you are applying to the program, even if you do not have questions. This will ensure that we catch your application in the system since this is a new program.

I am excited to extend this invitation to you for application to the new **Masters of Science in Education in Low Vision and Blindness**. Go to the website to begin exploring this exciting new program https://education.illinoisstate.edu/ms_sed/low-vision-blindness-masters/

Sincerely,

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