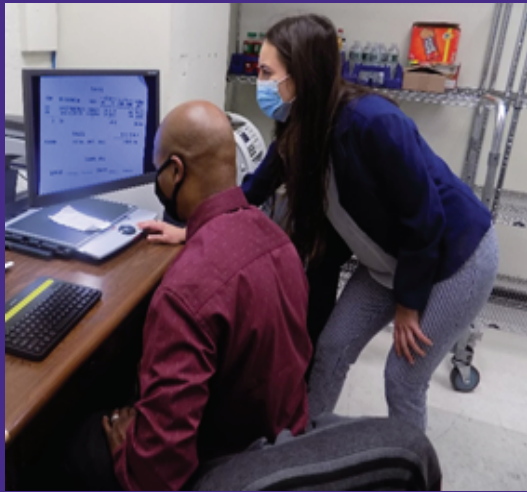


Become a Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant (VRTA)

Vision rehabilitation therapy works to restore functional ability and improve the quality of life for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Assistants (VRTAs) work under the supervision of a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist, to teach individuals who are blind or visually impaired adaptive techniques to complete daily living skills independently.



A VRTA is teaching a participant seated at a desk how to use a CCTV to read a receipt.

Become an Orientation and Mobility Assistant (OMA)

Orientation and mobility training provide techniques used to empower individuals to maintain their independence and safety while moving through their environment.

Orientation and Mobility Assistants (OMAs) work under the supervision of an Orientation and Mobility Specialist, to teach a wide array of skills to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.



An OMA is in front of a participant while the participant descends stairs with a long cane.



A VRTA and participant are facing a microwave and reaching towards the buttons, as the VRTA provides orientation to the appliance.

Course of Study

- Introduction to Vision Rehabilitation and Teaching
- Understanding Low Vision
- Orientation and Mobility Foundation and Skills
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Foundation and Skills
- Orientation and Mobility Internship
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Internship
- Internship Seminar

Course Graduate Outcomes

- Act as an advocate for individuals who are blind or visually impaired and for the profession of vision rehabilitation.
- Provide instruction to individuals with visual impairment or blindness in accordance with the defined roles and responsibilities of an Orientation and Mobility Assistant (OMA) and Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant (VRTA).
- Provide individuals who are blind or visually impaired the skills that they need to maintain their independence and live fulfilling lives.
- Receive a certificate of completion to certify that the graduate will be able to work for vision rehabilitation agencies in these disciplines within New York State.

Admission Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- Computer skills
- Application
- Resume
- Statement of purpose – minimum of two pages
- Professional letter of recommendation
- Interview



A VRTA's hand is holding a sponge placed on a countertop. The participant's hand is on top of the VRTA's hand demonstrating hand-under-hand technique.



An OMA is observing a participant using a long cane in a convenience store.

Program Costs

The Orientation and Mobility Assistant (OMA) and Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant (VRTA) Credential Program is provided at no charge to the student.

Students will be responsible for the cost of books and other incidental expenses, such as travel costs to their internship location or testing location (all of which are located within New York State).

For more information or to apply for the Orientation and Mobility Assistant (OMA) and Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant (VRTA) Credential Program, please contact the

**New York State
Commission for the Blind**
OMA and VRTA Credential Unit:

OMAVRTA.Instructor@ocfs.ny.gov
or call
518-473-1599 and leave a message
visionloss.ny.gov

Offered by the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB), a division of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in an accessible, preferred format upon request.

This is an equal opportunity/affirmative action program.

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**Commission
for the Blind**

**Orientation and Mobility
Assistant (OMA)
and
Vision Rehabilitation
Therapy Assistant (VRTA)
Credential Program**



An OMA is observing a participant walking outdoors on a sidewalk using a long cane.

visionloss.ny.gov