

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

FAQ's

Q1: Why was this program developed?

A: In response to a growing demand for vision rehabilitation professionals in our state, the New York State Commission for the Blind is offering this credentialing program.

Q2: If I am disabled, will accommodations be made for me to participate in and complete this program?

A: Yes, the online portion of this program is accessible to the blind and will have closed captioned capability. The educational hub internship locations, vision rehabilitation agencies and testing facilities are handicapped accessible in accordance with the ADA requirements. This is an equal opportunity/affirmative action program and is open and accommodating to everyone.

Q3: What are the minimum educational requirements needed to enroll in this program?

A: High school diploma or GED

Q4: How long will this program take to complete?

A: The program will take approximately 9 months to complete.

Q5: Is this program taught online or in person?

A: Both. Seventy-five percent of the coursework is distance learning while the remainder is supplemented with in-person skill demonstrations, to reinforce that the skills are successfully accomplished prior to the internship. The remainder of the program will be completed in person as an internship at an educational hub location.

Q6: When are the online classes offered?

A: Classes will be held during live Zoom meetings during the week, Monday through Friday (times TBD).

Q7: What is the cost of the program?

A: The program does not have a tuition cost; however, students are expected to pay for books, materials, and fees associated with travel to and from the educational hub internship locations, including any applicable lodging fees.

Q8: What is the job outlook for this career?

A: Students who complete the credential program will be qualified to work for vision rehabilitation agencies in New York State in the disciplines of Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant and Orientation and Mobility Assistant.

Q9: How do I ask further questions not answered in this FAQ?

A: Email the NYS Commission for the Blind OMA and VRTA Credential Unit at OMAVRTA.Instructor@ocfs.ny.gov

Q10: How do I apply for the program?

A: Email OMAVRTA.Instructor@ocfs.ny.gov and ask for an application and submit it online. A program coordinator will then contact you to submit further information, such as:

- Your resume
- Copy of your highest education certificate (High School diploma, GED, or college transcript)
- Statement of purpose – minimum of two typed pages
- Professional letter of recommendation from an employer or educational institute

The NYS Commission for the Blind OMA and VRTA Credential Unit will review your submittals and if the program's qualifications are met, they will then contact you to schedule an interview. Until further notice, interviews will be scheduled virtually.

You will be notified by email if the Credential Unit does not feel you meet the program's qualifications at this time, or if the class enrollment limit is reached.