

1. Orientation and Mobility (O&M)

Q: What is Orientation and Mobility (O&M)

A. Orientation and Mobility (O&M) is the practice of enabling people with low vision or blindness to know where they are, so they can get where they want to go safely. O&M specialists work with people of all ages, tailoring interventions to suit the needs of the individual client, including people with additional complexities such as health conditions.

Q: What is the Graduate Diploma in Orientation and Mobility

A. The Graduate Diploma is the only program of its kind in Australia. The program prepares graduates for enriching careers in the provision of Orientation & Mobility (O&M) services. Graduates will be equipped with the specialised knowledge, critical and analytical skills, and industry experiences to gain employment as an O&M Specialist and impact the lives of people who are blind or have low vision.

2. Entry Requirements

Q: What are the Entry Requirements?

A: A 3-year bachelor's degree (AQF level 7) is the entry level into this program. Applicants with equivalent undergraduate qualifications or other experience are welcome to apply to determine if they might meet the requirements through alternate pathways.

Please note: A requirement of the US certifying body ACVREP (Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals) is that candidates have qualification of AQF 7 or higher. The program provides practical experience as part of the process for graduates to apply for industry certification i.e., the US ACVREP certification exam to become a COMS (Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist).

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Q: What student attributes are essential for student success in this program:

A: Graduate attributes: Students require a minimum physical dexterity and fitness for the program (including the ability to train under blindfold, walk backwards on stairs, and be able to walk at least 5km); and have the educational and emotional intelligence to accept feedback and the duty of care for the physical safety of individuals with multi-disability.

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Q. What is the application process?

A. Applications must be submitted through our [Apply Online](#) portal.

Q. When does enrolment open and close?

A. 2025 Applications open Thursday 1st August 2024 and close Sunday 15th October 2024. Candidates will be notified of the outcome shortly after application close. Accepted students will be invited to register to attend individually scheduled online Information sessions to discuss program requirements.

Q. What courses should I take each Term?



Whilst the exact dates are yet to be confirmed, the planned compulsory **2025 dates** are:

Block 1: Term 1 2025, Weeks 3 & 4

Block 2: Term 2 2025, O-

Q. Are there other costs associated with this program?

A. Students will be required to attend techniques training practicals and work integrated learning (WIL) placements. The cost associated with attending the practical components (in particularly travel, accommodation, and meeting away-from-home costs) will be met by the student. Students will also be required to purchase mobility cane sets (indicative cost as of February 2023: AUD\$120).

6. Additional Information

Q. What is the path to ACVREP Accreditation?

A. Students will graduate with the specialised knowledge and skills required to work in Australia as an O&M specialist. Accreditation is required by some employers through the US based ACVREP (Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals). The UNSW Graduate Diploma of Orientation and Mobility meets the core domain requirements for graduates to apply for certification through ACVREP however after graduation you will need to accumulate further supervised practice hours to apply for and sit the Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) exam.