What might I do as an O&M Specialist?

- Orient a college student who is blind to locate classes, cafeteria, dorms, and the library on a college campus
- Explore a helicopter with a child who is blind in order to understand a difficult-to-grasp concept
- Empower a teenager who has low vision to read a bus schedule with a magnifier, catch the appropriate bus, and meet friends at the mall food court
- Teach a man who is visually impaired to cross two busy streets to get to the gym after work
- Instruct a young adult in the use of a GPS device
- Teach long cane travel skills so a grandmother who is visually impaired can maneuver independently through an airport to go visit her grandchildren
- Watch a four-year-old name her long cane “Tangeroo” and use it to move around her pre-school
- Collaborate with city planners and traffic engineers to develop safe intersection designs for pedestrians who are visually impaired
- Orient a 30-year-old blinded veteran with a dog guide to her new job site
- Motivate an infant who is totally blind to engage in purposeful movement towards a musical toy
- Provide sensitivity training to the public regarding visual impairments

Why would I like this job?

- Instruct on one-to-one basis both indoors and outdoors
- Watch an individual smile as they shed the weight of doubt and fear
- Empower and equip an individual with a visual impairment to re-enter their world
- Be creative and problem solve
- Enjoy free daily workouts as part of your job duties

Lessons run the gamut -- from motivating an infant to crawl across the living room to instructing a senior to cross four lanes of traffic--it makes each day dynamic, different, and challenging

How do I become an O&M Specialist?

- Bachelor’s degree required
- Master’s degree or graduate certification in Orientation & Mobility is required unless an undergraduate degree in O&M is obtained
  - Program includes 2-4 semesters of coursework plus a practicum and internship
  - Many universities offer distance education classes and/or on-campus coursework
- Passing a certification exam is usually required

Grants and/or stipends for tuition sometimes available
Where would I work as an O&M Specialist?

- Outdoor, indoor, rural, and urban environments
- Schools and job sites
- Airport, bus and train terminals
- Homes of those who are blind or visually impaired
- Assisted living and nursing home facilities
- Rehabilitation centers
- Hospitals

Potential employers include but are not limited to:

- Individual public school districts or multi-district cooperatives
- Government or private agencies for the blind and visually impaired
- U.S. Veterans Administration
- Rehabilitation agencies/centers
- Private individuals
- Schools for the blind/residential schools
- Dog guide schools
- Private contract/self-employed
- Camps for people with disabilities
- Universities

100% job placement

For more information:

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
1703 N. Beauregard St., Suite 440
Alexandria, VA 22311
Phone: 703-671-4500
Fax: 703-671-6391
aer@aerbvi.org
www.aerbvi.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/aerbvi
Twitter: www.twitter.com/aerbvi
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aer_2
Where jobs are — AER Job Exchange: www.aerbvi.org

For certification requirements:

Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP)
4732 N. Oracle Road, Suite 217
Tucson, AZ 85705
Phone: 520-887-6816
Fax: 520-887-6826
www.acvrep.org

The world is my classroom --
I have no desk,
I have no chair,
but I get to go
almost anywhere