



IS A CAREER AS A TEACHER OF STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS RIGHT FOR YOU?



WHAT IS A TEACHER OF STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS (TVI)?

A TVI is an expert who teaches students to explore the world by learning how to interpret what they hear, feel, and smell. A TVI works with educational teams to enhance students' learning by adapting activities and materials. They also interact with community services in support of students and their families.

WHERE COULD YOU WORK AS A TVI?

You might work in a school, a home, or in the community.



IN A SCHOOL, you would teach students to:

- Read and write braille.
- Use technology, such as a magnifier or laptop, to access classroom materials.
- Scan a bulletin board to locate important information, such as vocabulary words and schedules.
- Roleplay conversational skills to help them talk with friends.
- Interpret tactile maps and graphs.
- Advocate for their needs and accommodations.



IN A HOME, you would assist students with:

- Identifying sounds in their environment to know what is happening around them.
- Increasing literacy skills by adapting books for the student and the family to read.
- Improving independent living skills, such as how to organize clothing and prepare meals.



IN THE COMMUNITY, you would provide students with:

- Opportunities for recreational activities with peers, such as playing basketball with a friend.
- Access to after-school activities, such as robotics and swimming.
- Guidance on career options and suggestions for possible employment opportunities.
- Assistance in locating places and things in their environment, such as their school campus or a coffee shop.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS CAREER FIELD IF YOU LIKE TO:

- Work with individuals of varying abilities and ages
- Work one-on-one with children
- Explore and use the latest technologies
- Collaborate with others
- Build close relationships with children and their families
- Travel to new places and have a variety of experiences from day-to-day

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET A CERTIFIED TVI

“ [Students who are blind] can do tons of things...and it's amazing when you see them actually do those things. To think you had the smallest piece in that is just incredible. It's a great feeling. ”

Holly Russell
Western Pennsylvania
School for Blind Children

Scan the QR code to
watch the interview.



HOW TO BECOME A TVI IN PENNSYLVANIA:

The two most common pathways to becoming a TVI include:

OPTION 1 — Pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education/Visual Impairment through Kutztown University. Kutztown is the only undergraduate program in Pennsylvania to focus specifically on preparing teachers of the visually impaired.

OPTION 2 — First, earn a bachelor's degree from a college or university. Then, enroll in a graduate and/or certification program in Blindness and Visual Impairment through either Kutztown University, Salus University, or the University of Pittsburgh.

Grants and scholarships are often available for students interested in pursuing TVI certification.

University Preparation Programs Offering Certification as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired in Pennsylvania:

- Kutztown University, Department of Special Education
Kutztown, PA 19530
<https://www.kutztown.edu/academics/colleges-and-departments/education/departments/special-education/programs/bachelor-of-science-in-special-education-visual-impairment.html>
- Salus University, College of Education and Rehabilitation
Elkins Park, PA 19027
<http://www.salus.edu/Colleges/Education-Rehabilitation/Low-Vision-Rehabilitation-Programs.aspx>
- University of Pittsburgh, Vision Studies Program
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
<https://www.education.pitt.edu/academics/visual-impairment-and-blindness>

