



It is our pleasure to acquaint you with a unique option in the Master of Vision Science program. This option, offered in English by the School of Optometry at the Université de Montréal, is called

Visual Impairment & Rehabilitation.

This program produces professionals who provide rehabilitation services to people of all ages who are blind or who have low vision. There are three concentrations (or tracks) in the program, enabling one to specialize in Low Vision, Orientation & Mobility, or Vision Rehabilitation Therapy.

The program is composed of three (3) segments: a 15-credit core segment, common to all 3 concentrations, a 23-credit specialty-area segment, consisting of courses and internships, and a 7-credit research segment. It should be possible for a student to complete the program in 16 months although two full academic years are allowed, if necessary.



Master's in Vision Science

Option: Visual Impairment & Rehabilitation

3 Concentrations:

- Low Vision Therapy
- Orientation & Mobility
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy

Low Vision Therapy (LVT)

45 credits



CORE PROGRAM - 15 credits

- IDV 6017** Psychosocial Aspects of Blindness & Rehabilitation - 3 credits
- IDV 6020** Functional Consequences of Visual Pathology - 3 credits
- IDV 6024** Rehabilitation Services in Visual Impairment - 3 credits
- IDV 6025** Visual Impairment & Additional Disabilities - 3 credits
- IDV 6038** Visual Impairment Across the Lifespan - 3 credits

LOW VISION THERAPY

23 credits

- IDV 6033** Low Vision Assessment - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6034** Low Vision Intervention I – Enhancing Visual Function - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6035** Low Vision Intervention II – Optical Devices - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6036** Low Vision Intervention III – High-Tech Devices - 3 credits (1 lecture + 2 lab)
- IDV 6030** Living with a Visual Impairment - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6037A** Low Vision Internship I - 2 credits
- IDV 6037B** Low Vision Internship II - 6 credits

RESEARCH 7 credits

- SCV 6001** Research Seminar - 1 credit
- BIE 6046** Introduction: Ethics in Research - 1 credit
- SCV 6800** Directed Research Project - 5 credits

Orientation & Mobility (O&M)

45 credits



CORE PROGRAM - 15 credits

- IDV 6017** Psychosocial Aspects of Blindness & Rehabilitation - 3 credits
- IDV 6020** Functional Consequences of Visual Pathology - 3 credits
- IDV 6024** Rehabilitation Services in Visual Impairment - 3 credits
- IDV 6025** Visual Impairment & Additional Disabilities - 3 credits
- IDV 6038** Visual Impairment Across the Lifespan - 3 credits

ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

23 credits

- IDV 6003** Fundamentals of Orientation & Mobility - 3 credits
- IDV 6004** Strategies in Orientation & Mobility - 3 credits (1 lecture + 2 lab)
- IDV 6007A** Internship in O&M I - 2 credits
- IDV 6007B** Internship in O&M II - 6 credits
- IDV 6016** O&M for Individuals with Low Vision - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6031** Assessment in Orientation & Mobility - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6032** O&M Simulation & Techniques - 3 credits (3 lab)

RESEARCH 7 credits

- SCV 6001** Research Seminar - 1 credit
- BIE 6046** Introduction: Ethics in Research - 1 credit
- SCV 6800** Directed Research Project - 5 credits

Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT)

45 credits



CORE PROGRAM - 15 credits

- IDV 6017** Psychosocial Aspects of Blindness & Rehabilitation - 3 credits
- IDV 6020** Functional Consequences of Visual Pathology - 3 credits
- IDV 6024** Rehabilitation Services in Visual Impairment - 3 credits
- IDV 6025** Visual Impairment & Additional Disabilities - 3 credits
- IDV 6038** Visual Impairment Across the Lifespan - 3 credits

VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY

23 credits

- IDV 6015A** Internship in Vision Rehabilitation I - 2 credits
- IDV 6015B** Internship in Vision Rehabilitation II - 6 credits
- IDV 6026** Assessment in Vision Rehabilitation - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6027** Braille and Visual Impairment - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6028** Computer-based Assistive Technology I - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)
- IDV 6029** Computer-based Assistive Technology II - 3 credits (1 lecture + 2 lab)
- IDV 6030** Living with a Visual Impairment - 3 credits (2 lecture + 1 lab)

RESEARCH 7 credits

- SCV 6001** Research Seminar - 1 credit
- BIE 6046** Introduction: Ethics in Research - 1 credit
- SCV 6800** Directed Research Project - 5 credits

École d'optométrie

Université  de Montréal

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Course Descriptions

IDV 6003 – Fundamentals of Orientation & Mobility

This course examines the foundations of learning and teaching of Orientation & Mobility. An introduction to the principles of concept development, spatial orientation, and environmental analysis as these topics relate to independent travel by individuals who are visually impaired.

IDV 6004 – Strategies in Orientation & Mobility

This course provides opportunities to gain knowledge and practical experiences regarding Orientation and Mobility. Functional evaluation and analysis of the needs related to independent travel of blind and visually impaired people. Design of individualized intervention plans and intervention strategies in the attempt to maximize the O&M possibilities for client across the lifespan.

IDV 6007A - Internship in O&M I

IDV 6007B - Internship in O&M II

IDV 6015A - Internship in Vision Rehabilitation I

IDV 6015B - Internship in Vision Rehabilitation II

IDV 6016 – O&M for Individuals with Low Vision

This course provides assessment techniques and intervention strategies for enhancing the orientation and mobility performance of individuals with low vision. Working with clients whose primary source of information for purposes of O&M is the visual system. Adjusting the use of O&M assistive devices (including the long cane) to the needs of people with LV.

IDV 6017 – Psychosocial Aspects of Blindness & Rehabilitation

Examination of psychosocial factors associated with the loss of vision and visual impairment; needs specifically related to social integration; providing assistance.

IDV 6020 – Functional Consequences of Visual Pathology

Examination of the anatomical structures of the visual system and their normal physiological functions as well as impairment-causing pathologies. The course will cover the most prevalent visual disorders in terms of their locus, effects, and treatments.

IDV 6024 – Rehabilitation Services in Visual Impairment

Presentation of the history, evolution, and current role of various disciplines involved in vision rehabilitation. The course presents a survey of current service provision networks, focusing on Canada and the United States but also discussing the status of vision rehabilitation throughout the world.

IDV 6025 – Visual Impairment & Additional Disabilities

Introduction to physical and psychological conditions that may occur together with visual impairment and have an impact on the educational and rehabilitation services provided to children and adults. The course explores functional implications of additional disabilities, medical conditions, and health issues.

IDV 6026 – Assessment in Vision Rehabilitation

Examination and practice of the battery of methods available to assess the visual, cognitive, functional, and psychosocial status of a visually impaired person. The course covers a variety of informal and formal screening tests as well as history taking and interview techniques.

IDV 6027 - Braille and Visual Impairment

This course develops competence in the reading, writing, and teaching of uncontracted and contracted braille. Students learn how to read braille both visually and tactually; how to write braille using a Perkins braillewriter, a slate and stylus, and specialized computer transcription software; and about the uses and production of tactile graphics. Students will also acquire the skills to conduct initial and on-going assessments of braille learners, and strategies for selecting, adapting and creating braille reading and writing curricula for children and adults, including those with additional disabilities and second-language learners.

IDV 6028 - Computer-based Assistive Technology I

Assessing the reading and writing needs and teaching the use of different assistive devices is an essential task of a vision rehabilitation therapist. This course develops competence in the teaching of Visual and auditory devices. Students learn how to evaluate the best reading mode (visual, auditory or tactile) based on the task to be completed and the different eye conditions.

IDV 6029 – Computer-based Assistive Technology II

This course aims to provide the necessary knowledge about the way technology offers a new way of levelling the playing field between blind and low vision users and their sighted peers. Presentation and demonstration of various low vision and auditory reading- and writing-adapted solutions in the Personal Computer PC and Apple environment.

IDV 6030 – Living with a Visual Impairment

This course addresses the practical concepts involved in all activities of daily life and the strategies involved to gain independence and security at home. Problems and interventions are addressed based on the cause and type of vision loss – congenital or acquired – and based on the level of vision loss: blindness versus low vision in all activities of daily living

IDV 6031 – Assessment in Orientation & Mobility

Examination and practice of methods available to assess the visual, auditory, vestibular, cognitive, functional, and psychosocial status of a visually impaired person. The course covers a variety of informal and formal screening tests as well as history taking and interview techniques.

IDV 6032 – O&M Simulation & Techniques

This course will allow students to experience traveling in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings under blindfold and a variety of simulated vision losses. The course will also address instructional strategies, including lesson planning, proper sequencing, and pacing, as well as specific teaching tools.

IDV 6033 – Low Vision Assessment

Examination and practice of the battery of methods available to assess the visual, cognitive, functional, and psychosocial status of a visually impaired person. The course covers a variety of informal and formal screening tests as well as history taking and interview techniques.

IDV 6034 - Low Vision Intervention I – Enhancing Visual Function

Exploring methods and strategies for enhancing visual performance without optical devices. The course presents underlying rationale and techniques for improving function without the use of optical or hi-tech assistive devices. Lectures will introduce and explain rehabilitative interventions and the labs will provide opportunities to practice the implementation of visual skills.

IDV 6035 - Low Vision Intervention II – Optical Devices

This course presents visual strategies enhancing functional vision of children, adults and elderly with the use of optical devices and/or enhancement systems.

IDV 6036 - Low Vision Intervention III – High-Tech Devices

This course presents visual strategies enhancing functional vision of children, adults and elderly with the use of electronic assistive devices and computers. Course topics include but are not limited to literacy and low vision, video magnification evaluations and training, computers, tablets and smart phones, artificial vision, and the future of medical and technological advancements.

IDV 6037A - Low Vision Internship I

IDV 6037B - Low Vision Internship II

IDV 6038 – Visual Impairment Across the Lifespan

Analysis of the elements to be considered before any intervention with various clients from the perspective of their physical, motor, cognitive, professional, social and emotional development

Université de Montréal

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Information

On the program : 514 343-6325
On admission : 514 343-7076

School of Optometry
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VERY IMPORTANT: When filling out the Admissions Form, the program number is **2-656-1-2**

<https://admission.umontreal.ca/en/programs/masters-in-vision-science-option-visual-impairment-and-rehabilitation-english/>

An accessible version of this brochure is available upon request

