



# SALUS

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## Blindness and Low Vision

College of Education and Rehabilitation

The College of Education and Rehabilitation invites you to share its commitment to enhancing the lives of persons who are blind or visually impaired. We pioneered graduate education in the field of low vision rehabilitation, and we continue to be a trendsetter through our professional leadership and rigorous distance education. What does this mean for you? The strongest foundation for success in this rewarding profession.

## Salus delivers innovative academic programs in four specialties

Salus University comprises four accredited colleges:

- College of Education and Rehabilitation
- Pennsylvania College of Optometry
- George S. Osborne College of Audiology
- College of Health Sciences

[www.salus.edu/cer](http://www.salus.edu/cer)

A SPIRIT OF INNOVATION drives the educational philosophy of Salus University. It was true in 1919, when the university was founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, the nation's first nonprofit, independent college of optometry. And it is true today, as Salus continues to pioneer advances at its four graduate-level colleges.

Our academic programs feature innovative curricula as well as extensive fieldwork experiences and internships. Concepts are mastered through rigorous online courses complemented by face-to-face learning experiences. Hands-on skills are learned in

state-of-the-art classrooms and during on-campus residencies. Experiential learning is delivered in hundreds of practice sites across the country, including schools, rehabilitation centers, and low vision clinics.

Salus has a multidisciplinary environment that encourages a collaborative culture and a team approach to education and rehabilitation. This private university, located in a quiet suburb outside Philadelphia, is a goal-oriented community united in a common purpose: to make a real difference in the lives of people. Our name—Salus, from a Latin word meaning “health and well-being”—embodies that mission.

A photograph of the Salus University Elkins Park Campus. The building features a large glass facade reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The entrance is marked by a sign that reads "SALUS UNIVERSITY" with a red "S" logo. Several people are walking on a brick path leading to the entrance. The campus is surrounded by lush green trees and landscaping.

of blindness and low vision education and rehabilitation.

### **Elkins Park Campus**

**Our 11.5-acre main campus offers suburban convenience, modern academic buildings, and a park-like setting. The campus is home to the College's Summer Residency program.**



The demand for professionals in this field far exceeds supply. The current shortage of blindness and low vision specialists will be compounded by an expected attrition rate of 50% over the next decade, meaning employment in the field is virtually guaranteed.

### **Personal Attention**

**All off-campus students are assigned two academic advisors and receive close mentorship from an accomplished and attentive faculty.**



**G**reat rewards are found in working with children and adults who are blind or have low vision. As highly skilled educators and therapists, specialists in this field assist individuals who are blind and visually impaired in leading productive, independent lives. Since 1983, the Salus University College of Education and Rehabilitation



**TASK AT HAND**  
**The Living Skills Lab**  
**is fully equipped**  
**for teaching daily skills.**

has been an educational leader in the profession. In fact, we developed the country's first interdisciplinary master's degree program in low vision rehabilitation.

Today, the College offers master's degrees and certificates through four graduate-level academic programs: Low Vision Rehabilitation (LVR), Orientation and Mobility (O&M), Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT), and Teachers of Children with Visual and Multiple Impairments (Teacher Education). All of our programs combine distance education, on-campus residencies, and hands-on learning experiences. In addition, to date, the College has signed agreements with 23 states to provide certificate programs in

O&M, LVR, and Teacher Education. Extensive financial aid, including tuition remission from 40% to 100% for all qualified U.S. citizens, is provided through state and federal grants.

Students who aspire to be leaders in this field will find the right partner in Salus University. We are home to the National Center for Leadership in Visual Impairment and the National Leadership Consortium for Sensory Disabilities. These two university consortia were created in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Programs, to support, through tuition scholarships, nationwide leadership development in the professions of blindness and low vision, deaf/hard of hearing, and deaf-blindness.

## Low Vision Rehabilitation

Prepares professionals in rehabilitation, eye care, education, and related fields to work effectively with persons who have low vision

### Master of Science

- 43-credit program offered part time or full time
- Online coursework supplemented by a two-week summer residency
- Supervised fieldwork and an internship

### Certificate

- 35.5-credit program offered part time or full time
- Online coursework supplemented by a partial summer residency
- Supervised fieldwork and an internship

For more details:  
[www.salus.edu/cer](http://www.salus.edu/cer)



Adult students need a rigorous education that causes minimum disruption to their established lives. That's why Salus developed four innovative blindness and low vision programs that combine distance learning, on-campus residencies, and fieldwork experiences.



### **Valued Specialists**

**Federal scholarships are available to qualified applicants in all master's and certificate programs. Many states offer generous financial support, including up to 100% tuition remission.**

Each of our graduate-level programs offers a master's degree and one or more certificates in a specialty area of blindness and low vision. Students may choose to earn a master's degree in one area and a certificate in one or more other areas; many professionals have double or triple certifications.

The Low Vision Rehabilitation program is designed for professionals who want to work more effectively with children and adults who have low vision. Participants typically enter the program from people-centered fields. The Vision Rehabilitation Therapy program prepares students to provide personal rehabilitation services to adults who are



**CAREER CREDENTIALS**  
**Graduates of all programs are eligible for certification by the appropriate national body.**

blind or visually impaired.

Students in the Orientation and Mobility program are prepared for teaching persons who are blind or visually impaired the skills necessary for remaining oriented and traveling safely in all environments. A severe shortage of specialists means that many states will pay for your education.

The Teacher Education (TVI) program offers a master's

degree and certificates in the instruction of infants, children, and youth who are blind or visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities. Students who do not hold a teaching certificate recognized in Pennsylvania are considered candidates for initial certification; students who do hold a certificate are considered candidates for advanced certification.

## Orientation and Mobility

Prepares professionals to teach persons who are blind or visually impaired skills for navigating all environments

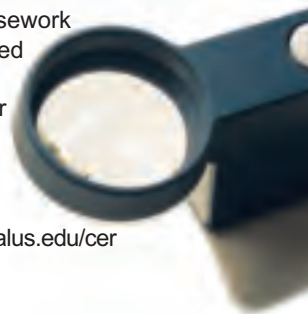
### Master of Science

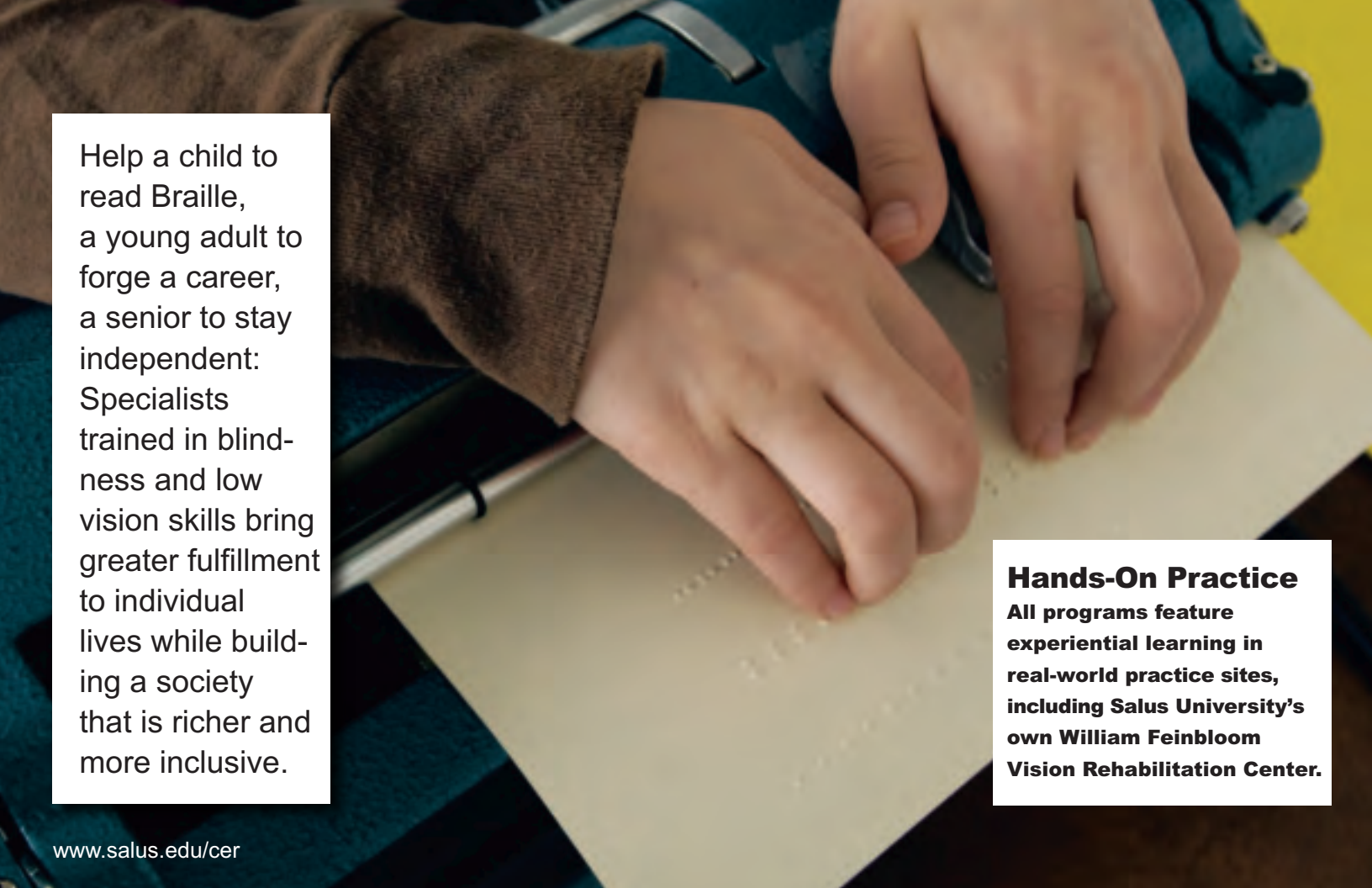
- 41.5-credit program offered full time over 14 months
- Online coursework supplemented by weekend and summer residencies
- Supervised fieldwork and an internship

### Certificates

- 29-credit, part-time program for individuals with relevant degree
- 36.5-credit, part- or full-time program for individuals with a degree in an unrelated field
- Online coursework supplemented by weekend and summer residencies

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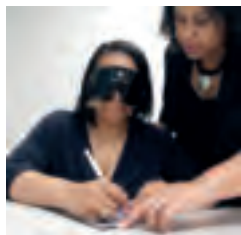
Help a child to  
read Braille,  
a young adult to  
forge a career,  
a senior to stay  
independent:  
Specialists  
trained in blind-  
ness and low  
vision skills bring  
greater fulfillment  
to individual  
lives while build-  
ing a society  
that is richer and  
more inclusive.

### **Hands-On Practice**

**All programs feature  
experiential learning in  
real-world practice sites,  
including Salus University's  
own William Feinbloom  
Vision Rehabilitation Center.**



**A**t the College of Education and Rehabilitation, you can pursue a degree on your own time, no matter where you live or what your schedule. The majority of the coursework is delivered via distance education on both the master's degree and certificate levels. The online component is complemented by a summer



**LIFE LESSONS**  
**Students wear blindness**  
**and low vision simulators**  
**while learning to teach**  
**daily living skills.**

residency program as well as extensive hands-on experience through practica, case studies, fieldwork, and internships. This innovative approach ensures that graduates enter the workplace with a deep understanding of and extensive experience in their chosen specialty.

Online classes are taught by experienced and supportive faculty members, and class discussion boards allow students and faculty to engage directly with the material—and each other. A format featuring distance education combined with face-to-face weekend and summer sessions is available in several states. Students are assigned an advisor in the local area in addition to an advisor at Salus University; this ensures

close guidance throughout the program.

The College believes strongly in experiential education that is informed by research-based best practices. We have built a nationwide network of fieldwork and internship sites and work hard to find the placement that is right for you, whether you want to stay local or are eager to travel. Although details vary from program to program, all students will accumulate hundreds of hours of experience working directly with individuals who are blind and visually impaired. Finally, the Summer Residency program, held at Salus University's main campus, provides intense, face-to-face learning experiences.

## Teacher Education

Prepares teachers in the instruction of children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities

### Master of Education

- 47-credit program offered full time or part time
- Online coursework supplemented by 10-week summer residencies
- Supervised fieldwork and an internship

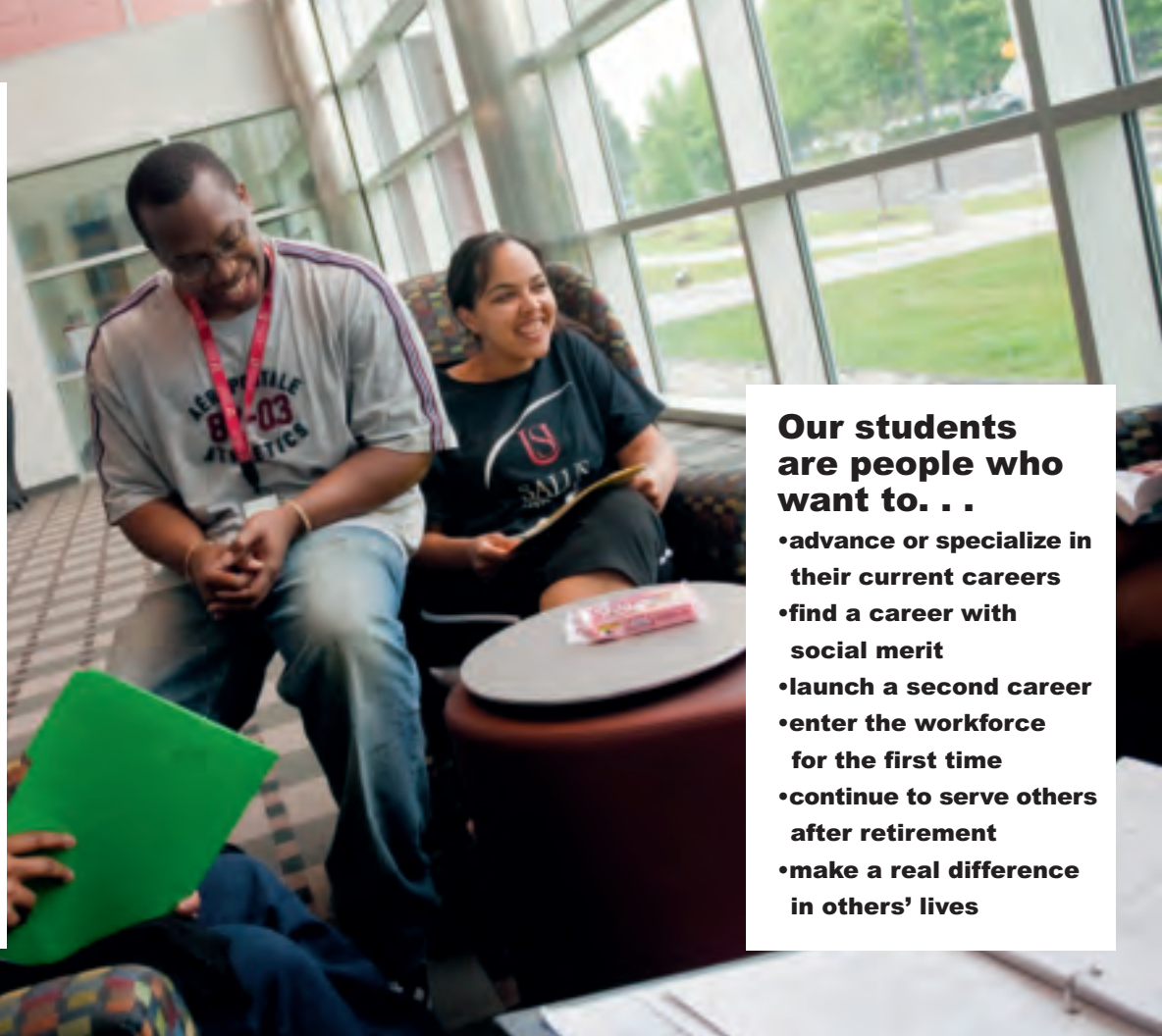
### Certificate

- 35-credit program offered full time or part time
- Initial and advanced certification
- Online coursework supplemented by 10-week summer residencies
- Supervised fieldwork experiences and an internship

For more details:  
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Students arriving on campus for the Summer Residency program are excited to meet faculty members and distance-learning classmates face to face, sometimes for the first time. Relationships developed through online courses and discussion boards continue and deepen over the two- to 10-week residencies.



**Our students are people who want to. . .**

- advance or specialize in their current careers
- find a career with social merit
- launch a second career
- enter the workforce for the first time
- continue to serve others after retirement
- make a real difference in others' lives

**F**ocused yet friendly—that's how students describe the Salus community. The main campus is located in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, a quiet suburb that offers a convenient setting for the on-campus programs of the College of Education and Rehabilitation. Beautifully landscaped on 11.5 acres of a former estate, the campus includes two modern academic buildings and a student center clustered near a pond. The Salus community is always lively, with students from all four colleges studying here year round, including summers and weekends.

Students completing their weekend and summer residencies benefit from a centralized campus with easy access to



### **BEST OF PHILADELPHIA**

**City attractions are as close as the short walk to the neighborhood train station.**

academic and co-curricular resources, including classrooms, library, bookstore, lounges, fitness center, and a comfortable cafeteria. Also on campus are the College's Living Skills and Technology Labs, where students learn to teach daily living tasks, including financial and home management tasks, and experience adaptive technology while wearing blindness and low vision simulators.

Summer residency students will find attractive, affordable housing in Elkins Park's residential neighborhoods. All the suburban conveniences, including shopping, dining, and services, are close by. United in a common purpose, students form life-long bonds with each other and with the larger Salus community—a place as people centered as the students it serves.

## **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy**

Prepares professionals to provide comprehensive vision rehabilitation therapy services to adults who are blind or visually impaired

### **Master of Science**

- 44-credit program offered part time
- Online coursework supplemented by a 10-week summer residency
- Supervised fieldwork and an internship

### **Certificate**

- 41-credit program offered part time
- Online coursework supplemented by a 10-week summer residency
- Supervised fieldwork and an internship

For more details:  
[www.salus.edu/cer](http://www.salus.edu/cer)

**Blindness and low vision** is the focus of Salus University's College of Education and Rehabilitation. Our master's degree and certificate programs provide an excellent foundation in a field offering strong employment prospects and great personal satisfaction. Scholarship opportunities are extensive and range from 40% to 100% of tuition. Salus encourages applications from candidates who meet the listed criteria. Admission to the College is based on academic achievement and personal and interview indices as evaluated by the College's admissions committee. Only the best-qualified candidates receive an invitation for admission.

### How To Apply

Your application to the College of Education and Rehabilitation can be submitted by downloading, completing and submitting an application (we have an application form for screen readers as well), *and* the following documents:

- Application Fee Payment form
- Optional Information form
- Three (3) Reference Reports

The applications and supporting documents can be found online at [www.salus.edu/cer\\_impairedVision/grad\\_application\\_process.html](http://www.salus.edu/cer_impairedVision/grad_application_process.html)

You may request application materials be mailed to you by calling 215.780.1360 or by emailing [admissions@salus.edu](mailto:admissions@salus.edu)

### Academic Programs

The College offers master's degree and certificate programs in these four specialty areas of blindness and low vision education and rehabilitation:

- Low Vision Rehabilitation
- Orientation and Mobility
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy
- Teachers of Children with Visual and Multiple Impairments (Teacher Education)

### Admission Criteria

- All applicants must hold an undergraduate or graduate degree.
- Professional preparation or experience is preferred. Applicants to the Low Vision Rehabilitation, Vision Rehabilitation Therapy, or Orientation and Mobility programs may have exposure to rehabilitation, eye care, psychology, social work, education, or a related field. Applicants to the Teacher Education program should have exposure to special education.
- Applicants who do not have a graduate degree must demonstrate satisfactory performance on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT), Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Optometry Admission Test (OAT), or other appropriate national test.
- Additional criteria can be found on our website.