

ASACR 6

Office of the President
February 21, 2020

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Arts degree with a major in Orientation and Mobility, in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Counselor Education, within the College of Education, beginning in the Fall 2020 Semester.

Background: Orientation and mobility describe the ways by which individuals with visual impairments know their position in space and move within the environment. The proposed program will prepare instructors to address the orientation and mobility needs of children with blindness and visual impairments; individuals with complex needs; and adults with vision loss. The program includes courses offered synchronously online, face-to-face weekends, and intensive summer classes held on the University of Kentucky campus as well as at the Kentucky School for the Blind. At the end of the program, students will complete an internship in educational and rehabilitation settings as needed for national certification as Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists.

There is national demand to increase the number of specialists in this area by up to more than 8,000, while existing programs are only preparing approximately 250 professionals per year. An initial enrollment of eight students growing to 12 is anticipated.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate, and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other_____