



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

Term: Summer 2024

Title: Deaf-Blind O&M Strategies

Instructor of Record: Tanni L. Anthony, Ph.D. (Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)

Instructor of Record Biography: Tanni Anthony earned a Ph.D. from the University of Denver in 2002 in the area of Child and Family Studies and Interdisciplinary Leadership. She has thirty-five plus years of experience in her teaching profession. She is currently the Director of the Access, Learning, and Literacy Team with the Colorado Department of Education's Exceptional Student Leadership Unit and serves as Project Director of the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project and as State Consultant on Blindness / Visual Impairment. Key responsibilities include:

1. Delineate the purpose of the course.
2. Develop and define the content and sequence of competencies to be attained by the participants.
3. Identify the key presenters for the training session.
4. Develop and submit course proposal to UNC.
5. Contact school districts with course advertisement.
6. Plan for instruction site.
7. Meet with students to discuss the content and requirements of the course.
8. Monitor training sessions and take attendance.
9. Conduct follow-up discussions on the topics presented.
10. Provide on-site consultation on any on-site video case study analysis.
11. Conduct student evaluation on quality of instruction.
12. Evaluate students' papers and/or projects.
13. Assign grades.

Course Description for ACVREP website:

The 2024 Colorado Department of Education Orientation and Mobility Seminar will cover the following key topics across the two days of in-person training.

Name of Program Activity: Deaf-Blind O&M Strategies

Location: Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver, CO 80230

Dates: May 2-3, 2024

CEU Hours:15 CEU Hours

Registration Contact Information: For more information, contact Dr. Tanni Anthony at (303) 503-4647 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Course Description: This two day course will cover key communication and tactile strategies for orientation and mobility instruction of individuals who are DeafBlind. Topics covered and for choosing from to use as appropriate for each unique individual include rapport and building trust, sign language considerations, basic tactile language/communication for discussions and providing quick information while on the move, available accessible telecommunication and smartphone apps and strategies for soliciting information and assistance from people in their community, why and when to use adaptive mobility devices (AMDs). Case studies, stories and videos will be shared; participants will engage in activities on both days of this training.

Course Presenters:

Carolina Gonzalez, COMS graduated with a bachelor's degree in special education with emphasis in visual disorders from the University of Chile, Santiago in 1979. She graduated with a master's degree In Peripatology from Boston College, Boston Massachusetts in 1981. She has worked part-time as Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired since 1990. She has worked part-time as COMS at the Texas School for the Deaf since 2007. Ms. Gonzalez has a special interest in working with students who are DeafBlind and their families.

Heather Withrow, COMS is a mother of three teenagers, one of whom is DeafBlind, one of whom is Deaf, and one of whom is a child of a Deaf adult (CODA). She received a Bachelor of Arts in graphic design from Gallaudet University, a Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Orientation and Mobility as well as a graduate certificate in Deafblindness from Texas Tech University. Heather joined the Texas Deafblind Project in August 2023 as a transition consultant and continues to provide O&M services to DeafBlind students at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. In addition to serving as a mother and an advocate for Deaf and DeafBlind Texans, she is a member of the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) Governing Board and American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) Board.

Required Readings: Electronic course handouts will be sent ahead of the training.

Course Goals/Objectives: Following this course, participants will:

1. Be able to describe various strategies to teach basic and advanced O&M skills when working with students who are DeafBlind.

2. Understand and practice basic ASL (American sign language) signs and some protactile to use during O&M lessons with students who are DeafBlind.
3. Participants will learn the benefits of and when to use an adaptive mobility device to help bridge the gap between basic skills and the use of a long cane for students who may need it.

Course Content for May 2, 2024

- 8:30 a.m. Welcome (Introductions of presenters and everyone)
- 8:45 a.m. Rapport, connections, ASL signs
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Usher Syndrome, When and how to use an interpreter.
Activity: Learn 10 ASL signs
Activity: Make tactile identifiers? (Bring actual examples, bracelets, tactile symbols)
- 1 p.m. Lunch Break (.5 hour)
- 1 p.m. Protactile one-turn directions, yes, no, go, LOY etc. and Protactile w/student case studies, examples on the Internet.
Activity: Protactile one-turn directions, yes, no, go, LOY etc.
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Technology (apps and services)
Discussion/Recap
- 4:30 p.m. Dismiss

Clock Hours – 7.5

May 3, 2024

- 8:30 a.m. Discussion on reflections, questions
- 8:45 a.m. DeafBlind out in the Community (Strategies for communication, including the DeafBlind Street Crossing Card)
- 10:15 a.m. Break

- 10:30 a.m. Activity, Role play: Using the DeafBlind Street Crossing Card outside in the community, and other strategies.
- 12 p.m. Lunch (.5 hour)
- 1 p.m. AMD: Why, when, and how to make AMDs.
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Activity: AMD make-and-take. Participants can practice with AMDs, discuss scenarios.
- 4:30 p.m. Dismiss

Clock Hours – 7.5

Rational for Graduate Credit: All course participants must be Colorado O&M Specialists working with individuals with visual impairment, including blindness and/or deaf-blindness.

Grading Method: In order to receive a grade of satisfactory, students must:

1. Attend both full days of the course. Attendance will be taken by the instructor during each session with attendance monitored during each full session.
2. Successfully complete and submit an assignment that is reflective of graduate credit by writing a reflection and application paper on the course content. The assignment is due to Dr. Anthony no later than **May 31, 2024**

The paper should be emailed to anthony_t@cde.state.co.us The paper should be a minimum of three pages, double-spaced, 12 font. The paper should be sent as an attachment and not as link.

Students, upon completion of the course, will evaluate the course and its instructor using a standard UNC/ CDE approved form(s).

Students with Disabilities: Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Honor Code: All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust,*

Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

UNC's Policies: UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html>

Course Withdrawal Information: In accordance with University and Colorado Department of Higher Education policy, if you drop this class **after May 6, 2024**, you will be legally responsible for payment of full tuition since more than 50% of this course has been concluded. In order to be eligible to receive any refund of tuition, you must contact the Office of Extended Studies (1-800-232-1749) to formally withdraw from your class. Your refund, if applicable, will be based on the date of contact with our office. Withdrawals received via telephone during non-business hours will be processed and dated on the next working day. Failure to notify the Office of Extended Studies will result in UNC tuition being owed even though you do not attend or complete the coursework.