

DESCRIPTION: Under general supervision, provides adjustment counseling and teaching of non-visual techniques for clients who are experiencing personal and social problems which are associated with the on-set of blindness. Tasks performed vary greatly and are based on the needs of the individual client, families or guardians or consulting agency; performs related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: (A position is assigned to this class based on the scope and level of work performed as outlined below.)

This is the second classification level of two in the Visually Impaired Orientation Counselor class series. This class is differentiated from the Visually Impaired Orientation Counselor I class based on the scope and level of work performed and the amount of independence in which to perform the tasks assigned. Positions allocated to the first level perform basic counseling and teaching functions under close supervision and work with the guidance of Visually Impaired Orientation Counselor II staff.

Positions allocated to the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor series perform counseling and guidance related to vocational training and work placements.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do these examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Evaluates the present level of skill possessed by clients to identify attainable goals and areas of needed improvement to adjust to blindness.

Educates clients and the public in understanding the various implications of blindness and how this relates to current attitudes toward blindness.

Prepares and implements instructional programs for clients to address the necessary skills to deal effectively with blindness such as computer use (email, internet, screen readers or low vision applications), cooking and other homemaking skills, Braille and cane travel.

Prepares periodic reports to evaluate the clients' progress toward successful rehabilitation and to monitor the overall effectiveness of programs provided.

Assists in the training of new staff members in the different philosophies of working with the blind, the implications of being blind and teaching daily living skills to the blind. At times, serves as a team leader for a working group of Orientation Counselors.

Refers clients to additional opportunities provided by the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and other social service agencies.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: teaching and instructing individuals; leadership techniques; blindness philosophies; various educational modalities as they pertain to the rehabilitation of blind individuals (i.e. Braille, cane travel, computer use, email, internet, screen readers or low vision applications, etc.); understanding of problems arising from blindness; counseling techniques used in the rehabilitation of the blind.

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Skill in: evaluating each client's needs and the subsequent preparation and implementation of instructional programs to answer these needs.

Ability to: lead and mentor others in the completion of work; organize and coordinate various ongoing instructional programs; apply specific counseling techniques according to the situation; effectively evaluate the results of instructional programs and revise such programs as warranted; establish a strong working rapport with clients, general public and other service agencies.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

Bachelor's degree in a behavioral science, social science, counseling, education or related field and three years experience. Experience providing counseling and/or instruction to clients with a visual impairment or other disability may be substituted for a Bachelor's degree on a year-for-year basis. OR Master's degree in any of the above mentioned fields or related area and one year experience.

SPECIAL NOTE:

State agencies are responsible to evaluate each of their positions to determine their individual overtime eligibility status as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).