# Hello Special Education Directors, Coordinators and School Administrators!

Do you have a shortage of teachers who are uniquely qualified to serve students who are blind or visually impaired in your schools or community?  It is estimated that over 80% of students with visual impairments are in traditional public schools, but only 10% of those students are learning how to read and write braille code because of a shortage Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVIs).  **We’re here to help**!  The University of North Dakotaoffersa comprehensive teacher education program specializing in working with children/youth who are visually impaired or blind, including students with multiple disabilities ranging in age from birth to age 21. We are the only program in the region that offers a comprehensive program especially for teachers who support students in PK-12 schools that is ***offered entirely online!***

The **Special Education VI Program at UND** is an **entirely online**asynchronous master’s program that addresses the many aspects of VI including characteristics, assessment, braille code, methods/strategies, orientation/mobility, and application in a field setting.  We prepare teacher candidates who specialize in the area of visual impairments to address student needs based on the Expanded Core Curriculum; teach braille code reading and writing; conduct assessments in order to determine functional vision, learning media, and use of sensory channels; provide valuable input on Individual Education Programs (IEPs); communicate and support general education teachers; and implement strategies to improve academic and social outcomes for students with visual impairments and including students who have multiple disabilities.  Our program allows your valuable personnel to **continue working in your schools** while they earn their graduate degree in VI online. This type of on-the-job application to practice training has been **proven to** help candidates retain what they have learned AND **become competent practitioners** in the field.  Studies also show that ***when teachers feel competent in their skills, attrition increases!***

The **application deadline for the Fall 2021 semester is July 15th**; and located below the UND graphic are direct links to our website for more information about the program and the application requirements.  If you have questions or want more information, **please contact Dr. Renae Bjorg at**[**renae.bjorg@und.edu**](mailto:renae.bjorg@und.edu)**or 701-777-6760**

Let us help you staff your school and community with qualified, compassionate, and competent Special Education VI teachers.  ***Please forward this email to anyone you know who may want to pursue a career in VI or click on the web links below to apply today!***



**\*Click on any of the green or blue links below** for more information about each program:

[**Master of Science (M.S.)-**](https://und.edu/programs/special-education-ms/index.html)This, flexible 100% online Special Education VI graduate program allows candidates to specialize their training to support individuals with diverse learning abilities and behavioral needs through professional excellence and advocacy.  **It is designed for current teachers**, to earn a M.S. degree from a Special Education Program that aspires to be globally renowned for its expertise, leadership, diversity, and high-quality teacher, and professional preparation in the field of special education and behavioral analysis. Contact Dr. Renae Bjorg for more information: [renae.bjorg@und.edu](mailto:renae.bjorg@und.edu)

[**Master of Education (M.Ed.)-**](https://und.edu/programs/special-education-med/index.html)This, flexible 100% online Special Education graduate program allows candidates to specialize their training to support individuals with diverse learning abilities and behavioral needs through professional excellence and advocacy.**It is designed for individuals without an undergraduate degree in education** to earn a M.Ed. degree from a Special Education Program that aspires to be globally renowned for its expertise, leadership, diversity, and high-quality teacher, and professional preparation in the field of Visual Impairment. Contact Dr. Renae Bjorg for more information: [renae.bjorg@und.edu](mailto:renae.bjorg@und.edu)