



2023 Summer Academy

for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired

Transitioning to Post-Secondary Education and Employment

WHAT IS SUMMER ACADEMY?

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation/Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) Summer Academy Program is designed to offer high school age students with visual impairments an opportunity to develop their knowledge, experiences, and awareness as it relates to their future academic and employment goals. Summer Academy (BBVS) has received national recognition as an emerging best practice in transition services by the US Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration. Students will participate in a week-long program on a college campus where they will receive assessments, information, and educational experiences in various curriculum areas related to independent living, travel skills, vocational development, and assistive technology.

Students will reside in a college dormitory, share a room with another student, and eat meals at a campus dining hall, as well as engage in fun and exciting evening activities.

Current college students are hired as Resident Assistants (RAs) to provide daily supervision of students. Resident Assistants help to ensure the safety of the students and assist with various activities. Prior to the start of Summer Academy, the RAs participate in a training program to develop strategies and enhance the overall experience for the Summer Academy participants.

Transportation is not provided. Students must be able to arrive and depart the program with a parent, guardian, or family member. If transportation assistance is necessary for a student to participate, please contact the VRC.

****IMPORTANT DATES****

Student Arrival: Saturday June 24th

Program Curriculum: Sunday June 25th – Thursday June 29th

Graduation and Student Departure: Friday June 30th

****A maximum of 20 students will be accepted so hurry and apply!****

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, February 1, 2023**. Students/Parents can apply online using: [2023 Summer Academy Student Application](#)

- Be enrolled in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the 2023-2024 school year
- Be an active participant with the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services
- Demonstrate basic independent living skills and travel skills
- Be medically stable and knowledgeable of daily medication needs
- Be able to independently maintain dietary restrictions
- Be able to physically endure traveling on a large college campus

A list of offices is available online at [Click for a List of District Offices](#). If you need assistance with the application process, please contact your BBVS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor or your local district office.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Students will be informed of their acceptance into the Summer Academy by the end of February 2023. Once accepted their BBVS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will schedule an appointment to assist with the completion of enrollment documents which will be due by the end of March 2023.

Near the end of May, a program administrator will contact every student/parent to answer any questions you have about the program.

SAMPLE PACKING LIST

- Portable fan
- Backpack
- Assistive technology currently used by student
- Pillow/Blanket
- Appropriate Summer Clothing
- Portable low vision devices
- Towel/Washcloths
- Athletic shoes
- Over the Counter Pain/cold medication
- Soap/Shampoo
- Rainwear/umbrella
- Alarm clock/phone alarm
- Feminine hygiene products
- Refillable water bottle