

Research Associate II-III
Area of Specialization: Blind Specialist for Senior Adults

The National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision (NRTC) at Mississippi State University invites applications for an Older Blind Specialist position. The mission of the NRTC is to enhance employment and independent living outcomes for individuals who are blind or visually impaired through research, training, education, and dissemination.

The primary responsibilities of this position are to perform a variety of duties to assist with training, resource development, and technical assistance activities of the National Research and Training Center (NRTC) on Blindness and Low Vision. Regular travel is required for this position. The Older Blind Specialist exercises considerable independence and technical judgment in the performance of duties. Duties of the Older Blind Specialist include:

- Assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive training and technical assistance program for agencies that provide older blind services
- Provide technical assistance to program administrators and direct service staff
- Develop collaborative relationships within the fields of aging and vision loss
- Develop new and update existing online courses
- Create web-based technical assistance content
- Participate in program evaluation activities
- Provide training at workshops and conferences

The Older Blind Specialist may also assist with research projects and developing reports and peer-reviewed publications.

Minimum Qualifications are:

Grade and salary will be commensurate with individual's background, education, and experience.

Beginning with a Bachelor's degree:

A professional employee with a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Gerontology, or Vision Rehabilitation or related field and demonstrated competence can begin work at the Research Associate I level. To begin at the Research Associate II level, one must have a bachelor's degree in the required discipline and a minimum of three years relevant experience and the equivalent of a master's degree. To begin at the Research Associate III level, one must have a bachelor's degree in the required discipline and a minimum of six years relevant experience and the equivalent of the master's degree.

Beginning with a master's degree:

A professional employee with a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Gerontology, or Vision Rehabilitation or related field, one year of relevant experience and demonstrated competence can begin work at the Research Associate II level. To begin at the Research Associate III level, one must have a master's degree in the required discipline and a minimum of three years relevant experience and the equivalent of a master's degree. To begin at the Senior Research Associate level, one must have a master's degree in the required discipline and a minimum of six years relevant experience.

Beginning with a doctoral degree:

A professional employee with a doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Gerontology, or Vision Rehabilitation or related field with two years of relevant experience and demonstrated competence can begin work at the Research Associate III level. To begin at the Senior Research Associate level, one must have a doctoral degree in the required discipline and a minimum of three years relevant experience.

Preferred Qualifications are:

- Certification credentials/licensure in at least one rehabilitation-related area
- Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Gerontology, Vision Rehabilitation Therapy/Rehabilitation Teaching, Orientation & Mobility, or a closely related field
- At least three years of experience working directly with senior adults.
- Experience presenting to groups of people.
- Excellent written, verbal communication, and interpersonal skills.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Knowledge and experience in the use of current and emerging assistive technology used by persons who have visual impairments
- Knowledge of the special needs of senior adults with vision loss
- Ability to create engaging training activities
- Ability to develop and implement training evaluations
- Expertise with a variety of software, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation

Physical Requirements:

- No unusual physical requirements. Requires limited lifting of files and records and nearly all work is performed in a comfortable indoor facility.
- Frequent external imposed deadlines; set and revised beyond one's control; interruptions influence priorities; difficult to anticipate nature or volume of work with certainty beyond a few days; meeting of deadlines and coordination of unrelated activities are key to the position; involves conflict-resolution or similar interactions involving emotional issues or stress on a regular basis.

Please apply for the position directly to the NRTC and through Mississippi State University's job website. Email your letter of application, resume or curriculum vitae, and names and contact information for at least three references to nrtcjobs@colled.msstate.edu. Additionally, apply through the university's job website at <https://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu>, **PARF Number 503974 (job title – Research Associate II-III)**. For questions about the position, contact Kendra Farrow (kfarrow@colled.msstate.edu). Persons with disabilities, especially those with vision impairments, are urged to apply. For more information about our center, view the NRTC website at <https://www.blind.msstate.edu>.