### Section 7 - Criteria for Eligibility

**Category 1:**

Eligibility to sit for the certifying examination:

* Proof of a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university or college with an emphasis in Orientation and Mobility.
* In conjunction with the university program, successful completion of 350 hours of “discipline specific, supervised practice that includes, but is not limited to, direct service hours, and related phone calls, meetings, observations, report writing, etc.” The practice must be supervised by a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) either onsite or offsite.

**Supporting documentation required:**

1. Official transcripts documenting the degree
2. Clinical Competency Evaluation Form completed and signed by the COMS practice supervisor (see **Appendix A**) Please note: Applicants completing multiple internships in order to meet the minimum hour or competency requirements must submit a Clinical Competency Evaluation Form for all internships completed, signed by the COMS practice supervisor(s).
3. If the COMS practice supervisor is offsite, the “COMS Off-Site Supervision Contract” must also be completed, signed by the off-site COMS supervisor, the on-site O&M supervisor, and COMS applicant, **and approved by the ACVREP office prior to the practice taking place** (see **Appendix E**)

**Eligibility for certification:**

1. Pass the ACVREP Orientation and Mobility Certification Examination demonstrating knowledge of O&M principles and applications.
2. Certification is issued upon completion of all requirements.

**Category 2:**

**Eligibility to sit for the certifying examination**:

**Path A**: Proof of completion of Orientation and Mobility graduate level preparation courses from an accredited university or college that meets the 13 Domain Knowledge areas

**Path B**: Proof of completion of an Orientation and Mobility professional preparation program that is approved by a national government body that approves such professional preparation programs that meets the 13 Domain Knowledge areas

The 13 Domain Knowledge areas are as follows:

1. Know Professional Information
2. Understanding Relevant Medical Information
3. Understand and Apply Learning Theories to O&M
4. Plan and Conduct O&M Assessment
5. Plan O&M Programs
6. Teach O&M Related Concepts
7. Teach Orientation Strategies and Skills
8. Teach Mobility Skills
9. Teach Use of Senses
10. Teach Consumers who have Additional Disabilities
11. Teach Diverse Consumers
12. Analyze and Modify Environment
13. Know the Psychosocial Implications of Blindness and Visual Impairment

**Supporting documentation required:**

1. Coursework verification:
   * **Path A**. Official transcripts documenting the completion of the graduate level program of study in Orientation and Mobility meeting the 13 Domain Knowledge Areas including any official transcripts required to be admitted to the graduate level courses.
   * **Path B**. Official documentation of the completion of an Orientation and Mobility professional preparation program that is approved by a national government approval body for such professional preparation programs that meets the 13 Domain Knowledge Areas including documentation of the national government approval of the professional preparation program.
2. Completion of the O&M Core Domain Area Chart(see **Appendix B**in theCOMS Certification Handbook), demonstrating how each Domain Knowledge Area has been met.

**For Category 1 and for Category 2 Path A Candidates**

Successful completion of 350 hours of "discipline specific, supervised practice that includes, but is not limited to, direct service hours, and related phone calls, meetings, observations, report writing, etc." The practice must be supervised by a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS®).

**Supporting documentation required:**

1. Clinical Competency Evaluation Form completed and signed by the COMS practice supervisor (see **Appendix A** in the COMS Certification Handbook).
2. If the COMS practice supervisor is offsite, the "COMS Off-Site Supervision Contract" must also be completed, signed by the off-site COMS supervisor, the onsite O&M supervisor, and COMS applicant, and approved by the ACVREP office prior to the practice taking place (see **Appendix E** in the COMS Certification Handbook).

**For Category 2 Path B Candidates –**

**EITHER:**

1. Successful completion of 350 hours of "discipline specific, supervised practice that includes, but is not limited to, direct service hours, and related phone calls, meetings, observations, report writing, etc." The practice must be supervised by a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS®).

**Supporting documentation required:**

1. Clinical Competency Evaluation Form completed and signed by the COMS practice supervisor (see **Appendix A** in the COMS Certification Handbook).
2. If the COMS practice supervisor is offsite, the "COMS Off-Site Supervision Contract" must also be completed, signed by the off-site COMS supervisor, the onsite O&M supervisor, and COMS applicant, and approved by the ACVREP office prior to the practice taking place (see **Appendix E** in the COMS Certification Handbook)

**OR:**

1. For a limited time until closed by ACVREP: 3,200 direct service hours in Orientation and Mobility in the most recent 3 years.

**Supporting documentation required:**

1. Employer Verification Form(s) verifying the 3,200 hours of direct service in O&M in the most recent 3 years (see **Appendix C** in the COMS Certification Handbook)
2. Strong letter of recommendation from the Employer(s) in the most recent 3 years addressing the candidates competency of applied O&M skills in the 13 Domain Knowledge Areas.

**For ALL Candidates**

**Eligibility for ACVREP COMS certification:**

1. Pass the COMS Specialist certification exam.
2. Certification is issued upon completion of all requirements.