

BISM College Prep Program

This semester-long residential program is designed for blind high-school graduates who are planning to attend a university or other post-secondary institution or who are currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution, but need to improve their performance. Participants will enhance the skills needed to successfully earn their college degree while utilizing the techniques needed to be independent and productive adults. This program will include blind instructors who have or are in the midst of successfully obtaining their college degree.

Program participants will reside in BISM housing while taking one, two, or three 3-credit undergraduate level college classes. Students will schedule their college classes to ensure that they have at least three full days per-week where they have no scheduled college classes so they may benefit from individualized instruction from BISM staff. Students should bring any technology they will need to take notes and complete class assignments. Instruction outside of the college courses they attend will include:

- **Braille Instruction:** For non-Braille readers students will learn the Braille Code so that they have an alternative way to take notes. Those who use Braille will have time to build speed and improve accuracy in real-life and simulated college classroom settings.
- **Cane Travel:** Students will utilize alternative techniques in order to gain the travel skills to travel in almost any environment independently and safely. Instruction will focus on age-appropriate travel, including learning how to effectively travel to and navigate college campuses.
- **Independent Living:** Students will enhance their ability to cook, clean, make house-hold repairs and develop and adhere to a budget. The development\enhancement of these skills will enable students to run a household independently.
- **Technology:** In addition to improve their ability to efficiently use the technology they bring to the program. Students will also get a chance to examine and use assistive technology, such as screen readers for the PC and technology that is accessible out of the box such as the iDevices. The focus of instruction will be using technology to enhance success as a college student.
- **Seminar:** Students will be able to discuss and refute many of the misconceptions about their abilities as blind people. Pertinent situations students encounter during the program will often provide us with topics for this class to assist students with problem-solving difficult situations.
- **Study Skills Class:** This class will provide students with a specific time to study. During this time, staff will be available to answer questions and provide assistance to enable students to learn to optimize their time-management and note-taking and study skills.
- **Home Maintenance:** This will provide staff with a chance to work with students in their apartment setting, enabling the students to practice independent living skills in a college housing environment.

Note: All classes outside of attending the college-course will be completed while wearing sleep-shades unless specified in advance.