

Professional Development Opportunities in Deafblindness 2024-2025

The **New England Consortium on Deafblindness (NEC)** is excited to announce new training opportunities for professionals working with deafblind learners – Fall 2024 through Spring 2025. See training descriptions below. Please take a moment to share with your colleagues and networks.

Option A -

NEC Introductory Training in Deafblindness: FREE 10-hour training module (online) comprised of six sessions and designed for paraprofessionals and new staff. Each session provides introductory information for working with students who have vision and hearing differences (deafblindness), and includes information regarding high-quality practices. The training serves as a valuable starting point for new staff, laying the groundwork for understanding and supporting deafblind learners and those with complex support needs.

Target Audience: Paraprofessionals, Ed Techs, Teacher Assistants; New staff or those new to the field of Deafblindness

Time Commitment: Total 10 hrs. with an option for additional consultation with an assigned coach/consultant

***Dates:**

Session 1 - September 19th, 4:00-5:30: Overview of Deafblindness: Intro to Intervention & Strategies

Session 2 - October 10th and 24th, 4:00-5:30: The Senses

Session 3 - November 7th and 21st, 4:00-5:30: Communication

Session 4 - December 12th 4:00-5:30: Instruction: Calendars, Routines, Experience Books

Requirements: Working with students with combined vision and hearing differences, complex health care needs, or multiple disabilities. 1 hr. meeting with state consultant

Completion: Certificate of attendance

Cost: NO COST

Register: [Click HERE](#)

Option B -

Foundations in Deafblindness Training offers a year-long program comprising two courses (online) totaling 50 hours. The training delves deeper into the complexities of deafblindness, providing paraprofessionals with practical strategies and a thorough understanding of intervener practices. It is particularly beneficial for those looking to expand their knowledge and skills in this area. There is an option for a national credential as an Intervener, upon completion of a min-portfolio and application to the Paraprofessional Resource and Research Center (PAR²A Center) at the University of Colorado Denver.

Target Audience: Paraprofessionals working directly with Deafblind students with extensive support needs, including those who may want to pursue Intervener Certification in the future

Time Commitment: 20 hours Fall Semester and 30 hours Spring Semester

- Fall Semester begins October 1st, with the first class on October 15th

Requirements: Direct access to Deafblind learner; completion of mini-portfolio

Completion: Certificate - demonstrates level of competence; CEC competencies addressed; option for National Intervener Certification

Cost: \$300

Register: [Click HERE](#)

Option C: FULL – Registration closed until Fall 2026

The **Graduate Certificate in Deafblindness** highlights the unique challenges that students with vision and hearing differences (deafblindness) face in K-12 settings including the need for trained personnel. The graduate certificate is intended for teachers of the visually impaired, teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, intensive special needs educators, speech-language pathologists, orientation and mobility specialists, and other closely related educational professionals who anticipate working with this population and have a background in vision and/or hearing. The Graduate Certificate in Deafblindness is currently in the approval process, and the first cohort will begin this fall. Designed for working professionals, this graduate certificate is comprised of five courses, with one course per semester for a total of five continuous semesters. Courses provide an in-depth overview of deafblindness, psychosocial implications, multicultural perspectives, communication strategies, literacy, instruction and assessment, high-quality practices, and assistive technology. Courses are online with some field experiences incorporated as part of the assignments. Each course is three graduate credits with tuition costs of \$1050 plus some one-time fees, total program cost of \$5,250 plus fees. Students accepted for the fall cohort may be eligible for grant funding to reduce tuition costs.

Timeline

Course 1 - Fall 2024: Overview of Deafblindness, Including Psychosocial & Multicultural Perspectives

Course 2 - Spring 2025: Communication for Deafblind Learners, Including Personalized Literacy

Course 3 - Summer 2025: Instructional Design and Assessment

Course 4 - Fall 2025: High-Quality Instructional Practices for Deafblind Learners

Course 5 - Spring 2026: Assistive Technology for People who are Deafblind: Barriers and Solutions

REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE CURRENT FALL 2024 COHORT: For more information, contact Callie.Brusegaard@umb.edu