



Brien Holden<sup>®</sup>  
VISION INSTITUTE

ACADEMY

Global Optometry Resources

## Low Vision 1



# LOW VISION 1

## STUDENT MANUAL

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# COURSE OUTLINE

## COURSE AIM

This module aims to provide the student with the fundamental principles of low vision and the guidelines providing low vision services.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course, the student should be able to identify, examine and manage low vision patients requiring very simple visual aids.

The student should be able to:

- Classify visual impairment, low vision and blindness
- Describe the most common causes of visual impairment
- Discuss the potential psychosocial effects of low vision at developmental stages
- Assess the residual visual function
- Provide the basic interventions for common causes of visual impairment, low vision and blindness
- Offer advice on living with low vision to patients
- Refer the client to the appropriate service provider

## COURSE CONTENT

The topics covered in this course include:

- Introduction to Low Vision
  - Definitions, global prevalence, low vision services, psychological implications of low vision
- Causes and Symptoms of Low Vision
- Clinical Assessment of Low Vision
- Magnification
  - Types of magnification, Methods to calculate magnification, Magnification of various types of low vision devices
- Low Vision Devices: Optical & Non-Optical
- Orientation & Mobility
- Special Techniques & Adaptive Skills
- Setting Up a Low Vision Program

## COURSE DELIVERY

This course is designed to be delivered over 6 months (1 semester). The total delivery time is 42 hours, 28 hours theory and 14 hours practical.

### Learning and Teaching Methods & Resources

The suggested teaching methods for this course include: PowerPoint presentations, discussions, case studies, role play practical sessions and clinical placements.

The case studies provided would be best covered using small group seminars where students work in a problem-based way to discuss the scenarios and build a management plan.

Practical sessions involve simulations, patient/clinic observations and performing tests on fellow students or children.

Course resources available at the Brien Holden Vision Institute site: [education.brienholdenvision.org](http://education.brienholdenvision.org).

- Student manual: 9 chapters (listed on p4)
- PowerPoint Presentations corresponding to each of the 9 chapters

Suggested equipment includes

- Computer & projector
- White board
- Low vision devices

## RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Written examination
- Assignments
- Lab assignments

## TEXT BOOKS

### Prescribed texts

- Brien Holden Vision Institute Global Optometric Resource Modules, Brien Holden Vision Institute, 2010 ☐  
Dickinson C. Low Vision: principles and practice. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann. 1998.
- Jose RT. Understanding low vision. New York: American foundation for the blind. 1983.

### Recommended readings

- Lovie-Kitchin J. Low Vision. In: Rosenfield M, Logan N, Edwards K (eds). Optometry: Science, Techniques and Clinical Management. New York: Elsevier. 2009.
- Appel SD and Brilliant RL. Essentials of low vision practice. Woburn, MA: Butterworth-Heinemann. 1998.
- Chapman B. Coping with vision loss: maximising what you can see and do. Alameda, CA: Hunter House Inc. 2001.
- Faye EF. Clinical low vision. Boston : Little Brown Company. 1994.
- Faye EF. The Lighthouse ophthalmology resident training manual: A new look at low vision care. Lighthouse International. 2000.
- Freeman P and Randall TJ. The art and practice of low vision. Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann. 1997.
- Jackson AJ and Wolffsohn JS. Low vision manual. Philadelphia: Butterworth Heinemann/Elsevier. 2007.
- Keefe J and O'Connors P. Focus on low vision. Centre for Eye Research Australia. 2007.

- Mehr EB and Freid AN. Low Vision Care. New York: Professional Press/Fairchild Publications. 1975.
- Nowakowski RW. Primary low vision care. Norwalk, CT: Appleton and Lange. 1994.
- Rosenthal B and Cole R. Functional assessment of low vision - Mosby's Optometric Problem Solving Series. St. Louis: Mosby. 1996.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

Low vision online: <http://www.lowvisiononline.unimelb.edu.au/index.htm>



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **STUDENT MANUAL**

1. Introduction to Low Vision
2. Causes & symptoms of low vision
3. Clinical assessment of low vision
4. Magnification
5. Optical low vision devices
6. Non optical low vision devices
7. Orientation & mobility
8. Using functional and residual vision to achieve independent living
9. Setting up a low vision program



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