

Checklist for Successful Transition

If you can check off each statement below, you are ensuring that your transition from high school to college will be much smoother. If there are items that you have not completed, it is important that you do this as soon as possible before the start of your college enrollment.

___ I understand my disability, I can discuss my strengths, weaknesses, and needs in detail and I am able to identify accommodations and services that will provide me with an equal opportunity to succeed in college.

___ I am currently attending my IEP meetings.

___ At the time I apply for college, my documentation will meet the criteria for each college.

___ I can manage my time effectively, which includes: going to class on time, balancing study time and completing assignments by the due date.

___ I have visited the colleges that I would like to attend, have seen the campus and met with Disability Services staff regarding documentation guidelines and possible accommodations.

___ I am signed up for an orientation session at the university that I have been accepted to and plan to attend.



Transitioning from High School to College: A guide for Students

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The Transition from High School to College

High school students often find the transition to college academically challenging and emotionally draining. The transition from high school to college for students with disabilities can be even more stressful due to their disabilities.



College is a time of change and you will now be required to take on more responsibility for your education, more specifically YOU must become your own advocate. You can do this by becoming proficient at realistically assessing and understanding your strengths, weaknesses, needs, interests, and preferences. It is recommended that you discuss these items with the appropriate members of our faculty, staff, or administration.

Once enrolled in college, members of the University consider you to be an adult. You are now responsible for meeting the requirements for your education, seeking support services available to you on campus, and interacting with the appropriate members of the university community to discuss your academic progress, and any issues or concerns that may arise.

The Office of Disability Services is here to ensure that the campus and all University sponsored activities and events are accessible for individuals with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodations. In order to receive services with ODS, you must inform the office of your needs and provide appropriate documentation of your disability.

Quick Comparison

Differences in Services

High School

- Education is a right and must be provided in an appropriate environment
- The school system is responsible for identifying a student's disability
- IEP's are in place to discuss the student's progress
- The school system provides educational and psychological testing at no charge
- Course modifications are made in order to facilitate student success

College

- Education is not a right; students must meet the same admissions criteria as non-disabled students
- Students must self-identify in order to obtain services and accommodations
- No annual review or IEP is held; student is responsible for monitoring their own progress
- Once accepted to the university, the student must provide appropriate documentation of disability
 - Fundamental alterations of programs or curricula are NOT required



Things to remember:

- You are now your own advocate. You must request accommodations and disclose them to your professors.
- As a college student, you must structure and plan your own study time. In college, time management, organization and general study skills take on an even greater importance.
- Professors and classes may differ regarding attendance requirements, assignment due dates, and exam dates. It is your responsibility to study the syllabi and know the deadlines and other requirements of the class.
- Professors have different teaching styles, it is imperative for you to understand your own learning style and to adjust as needed.
- If you are over 18, University staff cannot talk with parents or guardians about your academic activities unless given prior authorization by you.



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