How to Survive College

The Top Ten things You Need to Know

WINAHEAD PRESENTATION

Help is Available

- It is different than high school. There is no Special Education in college.
  - College wants you to succeed
  - Laws about education are different for college and high schools
  - RULES are different
  - FERPA- Student controls access

Financial Aid:

- FAFSA - the student completes every year they want to apply for Federal Student Aid.
  - Support- Connect with the college you plan to attend or EducationQuest in your area.
  - Process- Student and parents input their information on FAFSA-
    - Submitted to Federal Student Aid and processed then sent to student and schools listed
    - Schools then process and send award letter to student
    - Verification can and will happen- this can/will delay processing

TRIO

- TRIO programs- grant funded, typically every 4 yrs.
- Variety of names- same targeted population
  - Low income/ First generation/ Disability
  - Provide additional supports depending on the institution-
    - Summer orientation/ intro to college courses
    - Ongoing enrichment presentation
    - Tutoring or additional academic support

Tutoring/ Supports

- Testing Centers
  - Scheduling exams/ monitored/ recorded
- Tutoring- depends on the institution
  - Some schools may charge for additional tutoring others are free
  - Some include Math centers/ Writing centers
  - Some have academic coaching opportunities

Disability Support Services

- Different institutions use different names/titles
- Every school that receives Title IV funding has a DSS office
- Things to think about moving forward:
  - Who makes contact with the DSS office
  - How do they make contact
  - Where do they make contact
  - What do they need

You must disclose

- If you want help or accommodations you must ask.
- Disclose = tell someone, reveal!
- We can’t ask if you have disability
- You don’t have to tell anybody about your disability, BUT if you want accommodations you have to disclose

Know how you learn and what you need

- Be able to explain and talk about:
  - How your disability affects you in school
  - What you need
  - How you learn

Provide Documentation

- You need to check with the college for what you may need
- IEP and MDT and/or any doctor's evaluations
- College doesn't test/evaluate like high school, so you have to pay for any testing you may require
  - Documentation is YOUR responsibility
  - Documentation should include diagnosis, accommodations, recommendations

Colleges Provide Accommodations

- Accommodations vs Modifications
  - Yes: extended time on tests, private testing area, reader for tests, Note taker, sign language interpreters, textbooks in alternate format, preferential seating, audio recording
  - Usually No: limited number of multiple choice answers, no essay questions, word banks, further explanation of questions, extended time on assignments, extended number of absences
  - Same book, same test, cannot provide unfair advantage
  - Think Doctor and Diesel Mechanic

Be Ready to Self-Advocate

- Moms and dads are great, but only you get to speak for what you want/need
- You are an adult now
- Nothing happens unless you ask
- You are in charge of who gets the information about you and your accommodations

You are the Director

- More Independence and Responsibility
  - No resource teacher
  - No longer the schools responsibility
  - You choose whether or not you use accommodations, when and if you use them

Your Success is YOUR Responsibility

- In High School the **SCHOOL** is responsible
  - Responsible to:
    - Find you
    - Test and evaluate you
    - Provide services to guarantee success

Take Advantage of Resources

- The challenge is not getting in to college….
  - The challenge is successfully getting out!

Practice self-discipline and achieve a balance

- Get Organized! Your mom and your resource teacher aren't here
- Attend Class
- Do all assignments
- Establish study schedule and stick to it
- In college you are in charge of reminding yourself
- Balance between fun and education

How to Survive:
Top Ten Things to Know

- Help is Available
- You must disclose
- Know how you learn and what you need
- Plan to provide documentation
- Colleges provide Accommodations not Modifications
- Be ready to Self Advocate
- You are the director
- Your success is your responsibility
- Take advantage of all resources
- Practice self-discipline and achieve a balance

Questions:

- Brought to you by WINAHEAD
  - All the DSS counselors from Colleges/Universities in Western Iowa and Nebraska
  - www.winahead.org