Building Bridges:



Transition From High School to College

Why Attend College?

- Increasing earning power
- Career preparation
- Learning opportunities
- Studying new and different subjects
- Involvement in extracurricular activities
- Meeting new and interesting people
- Achieving a personal goal
- Influence of family and friends

Types of Higher Education Institutions

- Junior or Community College
  - Technical-Vocational programs
- College (4 year)
- University

College is…

- Entering college is an adjustment for ANY student

  (You are not alone!)

- College is an achievable goal for students with the skill and determination

  (1 out of every 11 college students report having a disability)

And…

- All Colleges want to see you graduate and be successful

- Don’t hesitate to use the help that is available – that is why it exists.



College is different from High School

- College admissions or the college application won't ask if you have a disability……it's against the law!
- Admissions criteria won't be waived or lowered because you have a disability…..but in order to receive accommodations you must :
  - ***Disclose*** your disability:
    - Contact the disability services office at the college you plan to attend
    - Describe your disability and how it affects you in school

High School ≠ College

Issue	High School	College
Identification	School	Student
Assessment	School	Student
Making requests	School/Parent	Student
Advocacy	School/Parent	Student
Decision Making	School/Parent	Student
Transition Plan	School	Student
Accommodations	School	College

High School ≠ College

- High school (IDEA) = Education Law:
  - School is responsible for success
- College (ADAAA) = Civil Rights Law
  - Student is responsible for success

High School is a TEACHING environment

College is a LEARNING environment.

College Provides Access

Accommodations

To receive accommodations, you need to:

- Have a disability.
- Describe how it impacts you in a school setting
- Provide evidence about your disability
- Determine academic adjustments using this evidence*

* You will work with the disability professional at the college to develop an accommodation plan.

Documentation/Evaluation

- Each college has its own requirements about the type of documentation you may need.
- Colleges are not required to conduct or pay for an evaluation to document your disability.

Disclosure of Disability

- When to Disclose:
  - Prior to Enrollment
  - At the time of enrollment
  - During your course of study

NOTHING HAPPENS UNLESS YOU DISCLOSE

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- You are under no obligation to reveal information about your disability to anyone at anytime.
- However, in order to receive accommodations in college you must make those needs known and request accommodations.

Accommodations

- Accommodations are intended to level the playing field so you have equal opportunity to access programs, activities and services of the college.

Accommodations ***will not:***

- Alter the requirements of a program, course or test
- Guarantee passing grades
- Provide an unfair advantage

Examples (of accommodations):

- Extra time (tests/assignments)
- Tests read
- Textbooks in Alternative Format
- Copies of notes/note takers
- Sign language interpreters
- Tests taken in alternate place
- Use of assistive technology or software

Changing Role of Parents

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Signed Consent Form
- Organization & Encouragement



Changing Role of Students

Self-Advocacy

- Understand disability
- Describe disability
- Know your learning style
- Know which accommodations work for you
- Communicate needs to college personnel
- Speak up



Self-Advocacy

- The ability to speak and act on behalf of one's self.
- The person who cares the most about your rights is you.
- Implementing accommodations at college involves the faculty, student, and disabilities support services office working together.
- You are an important part of this communication system!

Be Able to Communicate:

- General information about your disability
- Academic accommodations that have worked for you in the past
- Type of academic accommodations you anticipate needing in college
- How your disability and other life experiences can affect your course of study positively
- Focus on your abilities and strengths
- Make sure to get a copy of your documentation (IEP and MDT) before you leave high school.

Remember:

- Education is NOT entertainment!

- It's hard work!
- If college degrees were easy……everyone would have one!
- One thing a college degree says……is that you stick with something until you complete it!

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