

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

- Significant differences between high school and college.
- <http://www.d.umn.edu/tutoring/transition-to-college/>
- Disability-specific differences cause more confusion!
- Knowing the differences and making efforts to bridge the gap will result in a smoother transition!

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HS/COLLEGE: ADMISSION and RETENTION

- Student's right to go to high school compared to college's right to establish admission standards
- Students in high school progress by passing – specific Grade Point Average needed in college.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HS/COLLEGE: RECEIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

- Automatic in high school versus choice in college – college students may choose to opt out
- Documentation requirements
- Student must be an active participant

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HS/COLLEGE: ROLE OF THE PARENT

- Parents must be involved in high school
- Parents are rarely involved in college after initial admission/enrollment process.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HS/COLLEGE: SUCCESS AND ACCESS

- Special education in high school – whatever it takes to achieve successful outcome
- Access to existing programs and services in college

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT SMOOTHER TRANSITION?

- Address academic readiness, time management, organizational skills, study skills
- Help the student to understand the disability and its impact in the educational setting
- Reduce the “stigma” by normalizing disability

What can we do.....?

- The power of pre-admission inquiries
- Is the area of academic interest offered?
- What are the admission requirements?
- What are the documentation requirements?
- What level of support/accommodation is available?
- What type of bridge is needed to facilitate a smooth transition?

What can we do.....?????

- Early contact with the college is critical!!!!!!!!
- Additional documentation may be needed.
- Accommodations do not happen overnight.
- Faculty consults may be needed prior to beginning of semester.
- Addressing need for assistive technology.
- Establishing relationship with Vocational Rehabilitation.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- Going to College
- <http://www.going-to-college.org>
- Office for Civil Rights' "Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities"
- <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>
- AHEAD's Frequently Asked Questions
- <http://www.ahead.org/students-parents/students>
- DO-IT Pals (University of Washington)
- <http://www.washington.edu/doit/Brochures/Programs/pals.html>

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- Office for Civil Rights' "Dear Parent" letter
- <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/parent-20070316.html>
- AHEAD's Frequently Asked Questions
- <http://www.ahead.org/students-parents/parents>
- Jane Jarrow's Letter to Parents
- http://www.ahead.org/affiliates/kentucky/letter_to_parents

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- Office for Civil Rights' "Dear Educator" Letter
- <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transitionguide.html>
- Access Booklet
- <http://www.ahead.org/affiliates/kentucky/transition-guide>