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# Successful Transition to College for Students with Learning Disabilities:



## Questions to Consider Along the Way

The transition to college is unique for every person - ask three different people about their transition and you are likely to get three different stories. Why is the transition from high school to college so difficult to clearly define? It is because each person goes to college with a unique and very personal set of expectations for the future and experiences from the past. The following is a short list of questions you should consider as you prepare for a smooth transition to college. These items are meant to help you look ahead and identify resources, while you are still in high school, that will provide you with the tools you need to create realistic expectations and achieve your goals during your years in college.

Have you created a list of “must haves” and “would rather nots” for the college you attend? (e.g., must have a major in marine biology, would rather not attend a school too large or over 100 miles from home).

Do you have a strong understanding of your learning needs? (e.g., using colored highlighters and index cards helps me remember what I read)

Can you clearly articulate how your learning disability affects your performance, and what specific accommodations are essential for you to succeed? (e.g., extended time on exams, access to someone’s class notes, opportunities to submit papers without penalty for spelling errors and resubmit papers with corrections)

Have you taken a tour of several college campuses? (e.g., how easy will it be to get from one class to another? Are the dorms suitable for studying or are their other places– like the library-where you can go to concentrate and even find help if needed?)

Have you visited and/or contacted the student disability services office of colleges you are considering or attending? (e.g. How many people are available to help students? What are the hours during the day and night when services are available? What specific documents do you need to have in place to access these services? Are they available to help select classes and organize your schedule?)

Have you inquired about the academic resources the college provides to all students (e.g. audio-tapings of lectures, online syllabus, writing center, free tutoring, introductory study skills courses)

Have you and your parents discussed what you will need to ‘survive’ at college? (e.g. banking, meal plan options, laundry, medical and dental needs)