

Educational Resources

Parents and students should consider the following in preparation for college:

- Make sure psychological testing is up-to-date.
- Obtain all special testing records before high school graduation.
- Make contact with the DuPage County DHS-DRS office.
- Consider a vocational assessment as a way to amplify present and future goals.
- Be familiar with study skills that work best for your child and his/her unique learning style.
- Consult with the high school to get a good understanding of how much support is necessary for success. This should be in writing. The IEP can be a very useful tool.
- Increase independent living skills.
- Encourage part-time jobs or volunteer positions.
- Understand how the disability is connected to social expectations with peers.
- Encourage students to be their own advocates.
- Learn about Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- Get information on special exam arrangements for the ACT and/or SAT.
- Obtain two copies of all college applications.
- Contact the office that will be assisting your child with special needs at each college before applying.
- Visit colleges before making a choice.
- Consider starting college in a summer session rather than the fall.
- Consider an appointment with a qualified optometrist.
- Encourage students to have their own membership in support and advocate organizations.
- Make sure it is the student's choice to attend college.

Questions to ask colleges about accommodations:

The following list of questions is helpful when inquiring about available services at any post-secondary institution. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. Various

post-secondary institutions provide a range of supports for students with disabilities. Your goal should be to match *your child's needs* with the *available support services* of the selected institution.

ADMISSION

-What are the admission requirements for students with a disability?

DIAGNOSIS

-Are campus resources available to diagnose specific disabilities?

If so, is there a charge for this? If not, where can I go for testing

and will it be expensive? Does student health insurance pay for obtaining a diagnosis?

If not, will family health insurance cover the cost of a diagnosis?

-If I were diagnosed as having a disability when I was a child, do I need new testing now?

-How will having a diagnosis be of use to me?

TUTORING

-For which subjects is tutoring available?

-How do I obtain a tutor?

-Is there a charge for tutoring? If so, is funding assistance available to help with the cost?

SEMINARS

-Are there special seminars for students like me?

-What do they cover?

-How will they help me?

-How do I register for them?

CREDITED CLASSES

-Are there classes designed for students with disabilities that I can take for credit?

-What are they?

-Are they available every term?

ADVOCACY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

-Is there someone who will help me obtain accommodations if I run into a problem?

-Is there someone who can explain my rights and responsibilities to me?

-Is there a person or committee that considers petitions for modified courses of study (such as being excused from taking a foreign language or taking a lighter class load)?

-Are there student advocacy groups and/or organizations on campus?

PERSONAL AND CAREER COUNSELING

-Is counseling available from someone experienced with various disabilities?

-What areas do personal and career counseling cover?

SUPPORT GROUPS

-How do students with disabilities get to know other students?

-If there is a support group available, what kinds of topics are covered in the meetings?

-When and where do support groups meet?

LEARNING DISABILITY SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING

-Are there programs set up just for students with learning disabilities?

TAPING TEXTS

-Do you have a program for taping textbooks?

-What are my responsibilities in such a program?

-If there is no program, what do students that are unable to read print do?

EXTRA TUITION CHARGE

-Is there an extra tuition charge for the services you provide to students with disabilities?

-If so, what is the charge?

Colleges with programs for students with disabilities:

The following are only a few resources available. It is suggested that you consult your DHS-DRS Counselor as there are many other colleges and/or technical programs that may better fit your needs.

College of DuPage

425 Fawell Blvd.

Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Main Campus: (630) 942-2800

Special Student Services (630) 942-2306

TDD: (630) 858-9692

www.cod.edu

Contact: Special Student Services Office

Support Services Include: Individual assessment of student needs, new student orientation, assistance with registration, accessibility information, library assistance, employment/career information, note-takers, testing accommodations (readers), tape records, access to audio recorded text books, tutoring, interpreters for the hearing impaired, access to microcomputers and adaptive equipment for the blind. Learning Disability Specialist on staff for instructional support (one 15-minute appointment per week through the Center for Independent Living).

Vocational Skills Program: "Teaching Workplace Competency to Special Populations"

(630) 942-2941

TDD(630) 858-9692

www.cod.edu/vocational

Description: Vocational Skills courses have been developed specifically for students with mild to moderate cognitive impairment. These specialized classes are meant to develop entry-level employment skills and enhance independent living. They are 8-weeks long and meet for 4 hours each week on campus or at community-based sites. The target population is students 18 years or older. Students must possess manual dexterity to perform specific tasks as required by each course. Classes currently offered: Employment Skills I and II, Keyboard Skills, Computer Skills I and II, Automotive Skills, Food Service Skills, and Hotel-Housekeeping Skills.

Elmhurst College
190 Prospect Ave
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 617-3752
Email: nancy@elmhurst.edu

Elmhurst Life Skills Academy (ELSA)

Description: ELSA is a 4-year commuter Life-Skills program open to students 18-25 years old with severe learning, intellectual, cognitive, physical/sensory disabilities. Students must have completed high school.

William Rainey Harper College
1200 W. Algonquin Rd.
Palatine, IL 60067-7396
Phone: (847) 925-6266 & TDD: (847) 397-7600
Fax: (847) 925-6267
www.harpercollege.edu

Contact: The Access & Disability Services Office
Support Services include: Specialized programs and services are available through the Access & Disability Services Office. They provide instructional support to improve retention, academic progress and success for students with disabilities. Accommodations may include: sign language interpreters, readers or scribes for exams, modification in test taking, note taking assistance, use of specialized technology, class relocation, modifications in procedures and conversion of materials. The College Awareness program is an orientation offered to high school juniors and seniors with disabilities.

Waubonsee Community College
Rt. 47 at Waubonsee Drive
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
Phone: (630) 466-7900
TDD: (630) 466-4649
Fax: (630) 466-4649

Contact: Access Center for Students with Disabilities, Ext.2564
Support Services include: Individual assessment of student needs to ensure successful educational planning, new student orientation, note-takers, readers, test accommodations, taped texts, sign language interpreters, career counseling, Learning Disabilities Specialist on staff.

Additional Training Resources

Donka, Inc.

400 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Phone: (630) 665-8169

Services Include: Computer training and assistive technology enabling individuals with disabilities to communicate, read, write, continue education or obtain employment. Mobile services to provide assistive technology trainings and evaluations for high school students in the school setting. Offers "Train the Trainer" workshops.

Assistive Technologies, Inc.

Technology Access Solutions for Work, Home & School

1415 North Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60563
Phone: (630) 527-0100

Services Include: Vocational Assessment, applications training on most software, and rehabilitation adaptations. Personalized training is provided specific to job expectations and/or learning needs of people with disabilities.

Technology Center of DuPage (TCD)

301 South Swift Road
Addison, IL 60101
(630) 620-8770

Contact: Dean of Students or Special Needs Coordinator
Services include: Provides a variety of technical and vocational training programs and options to high school students in DuPage County and Lyons Township.