

### Planning and Going to College



1. **Start planning early** while still in high school (beginning your freshman year). Make sure you take the high school classes that will enable you to get into college.
2. **Set goals** to help you get ready for college.
3. **Get to know your strengths, interests and learning style.** The *Going to College* website, <http://www.going-to-college.org/>, may be a helpful resource.
4. **Think about who your support system will be** when you are away from home.
5. Once you have registered, if you are 18 or older, your parents will no longer have access to things such as your grades, course selection, and so on. It will be up to you.
6. You, as a college student, will need to ask for accommodations and provide documentation. Once you are a college student this responsibility shifts to you and you will need to communicate your needs.
7. **Choosing a college will take time.** Attend college fairs, explore on the internet, talk to friends, family and others to learn more about colleges. Schedule a campus visit with the colleges you're interested in.
8. *Disability-Friendly Colleges* website provides information on preparing for college and a guide for colleges in the nation who go above and beyond the ADA requirements. There is information on what to look for when visiting colleges, the first year experience, disability-friendly links and a disability-friendly blog: <http://www.disabilityfriendlycolleges.com>. *Think College* provides information for persons with intellectual disabilities. The information is for transition-aged students as well as adults attending or planning for college. It provides resources and tools for students, families, and professionals. <http://www.thinkcollege.net/>.
9. To be successful at college you may want to **access assistance through the campus' Office of Disability Services**. Start by asking the school about services for students with disabilities. You can call on the phone, visit the campus, or even review their website to learn about services.
10. **If you use assistive devices** such as a wheelchair or a hearing aid you will need to check on repair services available near the campus just in case something goes wrong while you are away at college.
11. If you have special health care needs you should plan where you will go for health services, medications and supplies.
12. **Become aware of the laws that protect students with disabilities** at colleges, universities and community colleges.
  - *Fact Sheet on Disabilities in Higher Education: Your Legal Rights* – <http://www.las-elc.org/factsheets/disabilities-education.html>.
  - *Students with Disabilities Preparing for Post Secondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities* has information about admissions, accommodations, academic adjustments, documentation, and discrimination under Section 504 Rehabilitation Act at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>
13. Talk to your family, friends, and guidance counselor at school about your plans.