

**College Transition Information**

* **When possible, schedule appointments with the Special Services Advisor during times while registration is *NOT occurring*.** Once registration begins, the counselor will have far less time to focus on any one student.
* Have up to date documentation for a disability when possible. The Special Services Advisor cannot provide psychological or disability testing, but may be able to give you outside referrals for testing (at the student’s expense).
* It is essential to know the *current* functioning level of the student. As students get older, their level of functioning may change. Testing done when a student is 13 may not be accurate when assessing an 18 year old, especially if the adult has learned techniques to adjust.
* Bring all documentation to the initial meeting with the Special Services Advisor. Psychological reports, ARD notes, IEP’s 504 meeting notes, etc., will all help the Advisor assess the most appropriate academic adjustments available to the student.
* Have assistive technology needs defined and receive training on the technology before coming to college.
* Have a clear understanding of what self-advocacy is and how to be a self-advocate.
* Know how IDEA (K-12) differs from ADA and 504 in the college setting. Remember that laws governing **K-12 have to do with student *success***, but laws governing **colleges and universities only mandate equal *access.*** College coursework cannot be adjusted in ways that modify the essential skills required for any course.
* Be realistic in your expectations. If a student has problems in multiple areas that affect academics, college will be a struggle. Don’t expect the Special Services Office or instructors to be able to ‘fix’ every problem a student faces. Academic adjustments can be made, but college success is ultimately determined by the student’s abilities.
* Plan for your transition to college. Visit several campuses. Talk with other students, Special Services Advisors and professors. Ask tons of questions. Learn how to access catalogs and schedules from each campus. Know what different colleges offer in terms of special services and academics. Realize that larger institutions will have more services available campus-wide because of increased budgets. However, there will also be more students accessing the services at larger schools.

**The career you choose will be where you spend most of your time for years to come.**

**Take the decision seriously.**

**Be prepared and ready for success!**