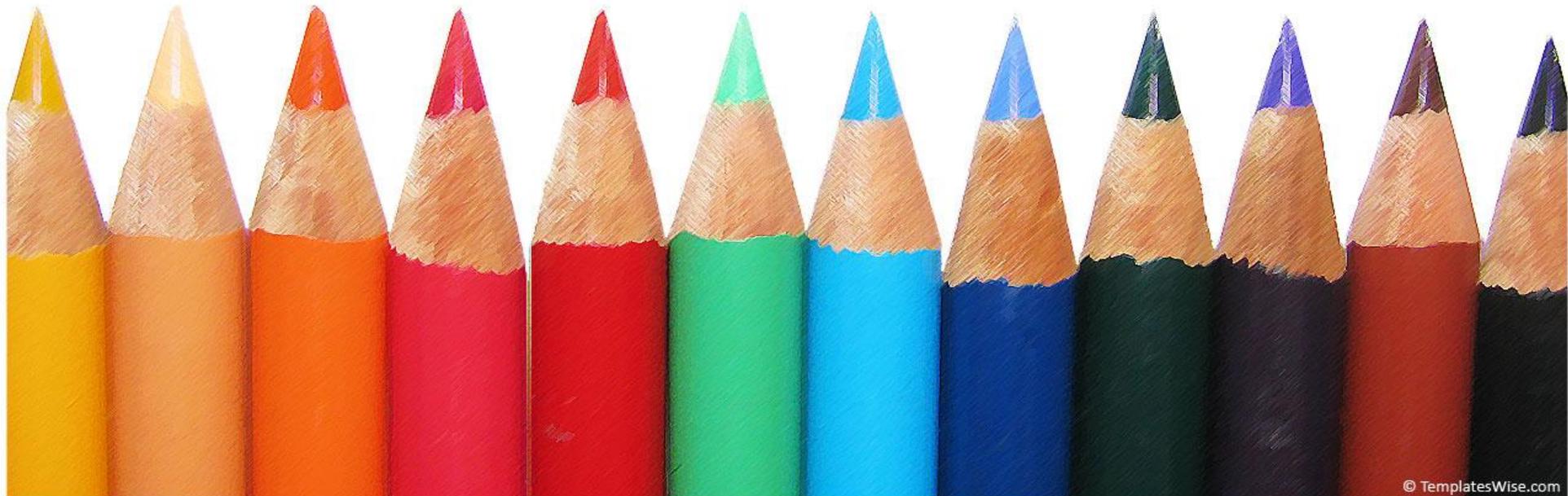


Preparing Your Special Needs Student for College

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Preparing in High School

Preparing for college begins at 9th grade for student's with special needs. Students must:

- Have a plan – beyond your IEP
- Know their personal learning style
- Develop an effective study ethic
- Have a clear understanding of academic success
- Actively explore careers of interest
- If the student is weak in a subject area, start with academic supports (i.e. tutor, study group)

What courses to take in HS?



- Math (4)
- English (4)
- History (4)
- Science (4)
- Foreign Language (2-4)
- Challenging Electives:
Computer Science, Economics,
Technology, Psychology,
Statistics, etc.
- Make sure student has
computer and technology skills
- If the school offers remedial or
support classes as electives in
your child's area of weakness,
take them.
- Practice for placement tests
i.e. PSAT – take sophomore
year (seek preparatory classes if
needed)

Standardized Testing Accommodations

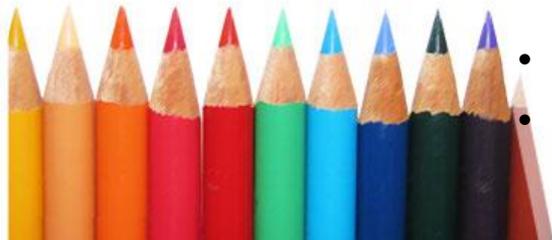
Be sure to ask for needed accommodations (partial list below)

SAT

- Large print (14 pt., 20 pt.)
- Reader (Note: Reader reads entire test)
- Colored paper
- Use of a highlighter
- Sign/orally present instructions
- Audiocassette
- Colored overlays
- Braille
- Braille device for written responses
- Tape recorder
- Computer without spell check/grammar/cut & paste features
- Record answers in test booklet
- Large block answer sheet
- Frequent breaks
- Extended time
- Specified time of day
- Small group setting
- Private room
- Screens to block out distractions
- Special lighting
- Preferential seating

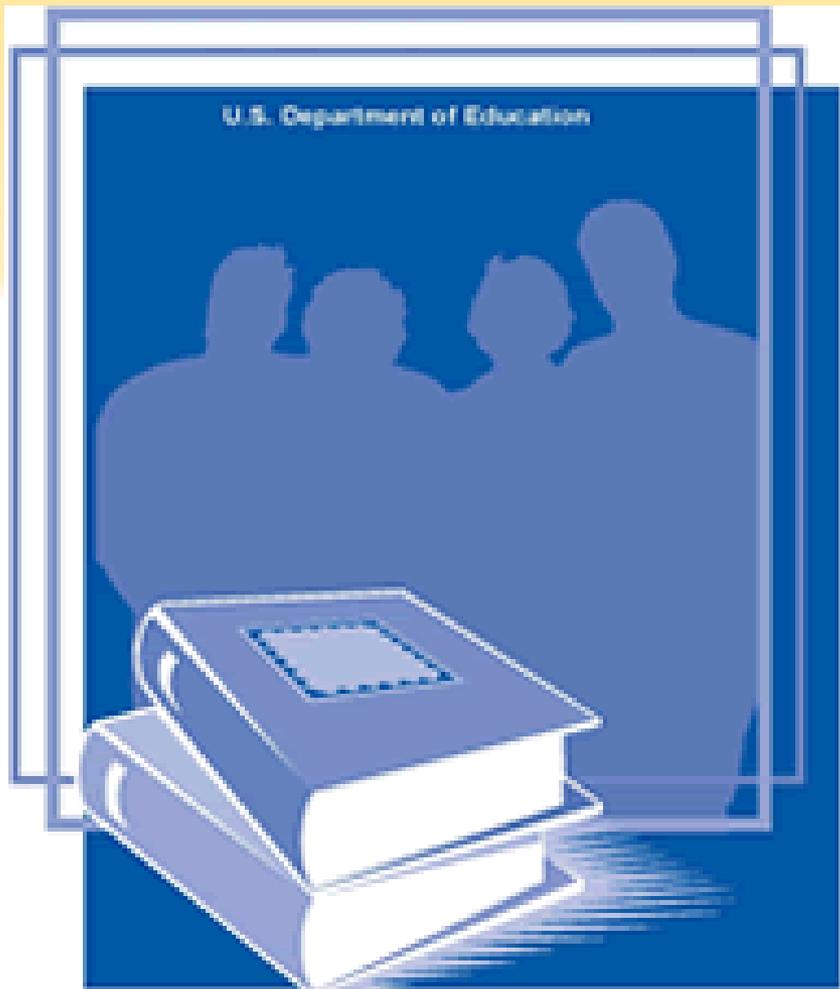
ACT

- ACT noted that special needs students may perform better...see if college accepts it
- Extended time
- assignment to a wheelchair-accessible room
- large type test booklet (18-pt.)
- marking responses in the test booklet
- permission for diabetics to eat snacks in the test room
- seating near the front of the room to lip-read spoken instructions
- sign language interpreter (not a relative) to sign spoken instructions (not test items)
- printed copy of spoken instructions with visual notification of start, time remaining, and stop times



Once you have a specific college in mind...

- Contact the school's admissions office as early as possible.
 - Learn about current admission requirements; they can change
 - Ask for available support services for students with disabilities
- Schedule a campus visit to:
 - Meet with the school's admissions office
 - Explore the Office of Disability Services
 - Speak with a contact in field of study to learn how they support students with special needs
- Utilize a screening/evaluation system for preferred school(s) and choice



**Students With Disabilities Preparing
For Postsecondary Education:
Know Your Rights and Responsibilities**

Order from ed.gov

- If you are 18 to 22 years old attending community college on an IEP *in a transition program* those services MAY still apply.
- While IEPs are not honored in traditional college settings, Section 504 ensures that the child with a disability has equal access to an education.
- In college, students may choose to voluntarily disclose their exceptionality.
- Students should work closely with the ODS and look into their STATE Vocational Rehab Services to see if they qualify for additional support.

Characteristics of a college bound student

- Self-Advocate
- Self-awareness
 - Study habits
 - Perseverance
- Effective support system
- Proactive attitude (versus reactive)



Admissions

- Know SAT/ACT scores required.
- Complete application process as early as possible
- Documenting learning disabilities (3-5 years):
www.ahead.org, www.ets.org,
www.act.org
- Additional evaluation or documentation may be required and may be at the cost of the student.
- Keep a list of all of your documentation and communications with the college.
- Contact the Office of Disability Services



Be able to answer the following:

- Describe your current limitations caused by your disability.
- In the classroom, this affects my ability to...
- How this affects my studying is...
- In outside activities/work, this affects my ability to...
- *If asked to submit a personal statement with your admissions application, you can include these answers as accomplishments in your essay.*



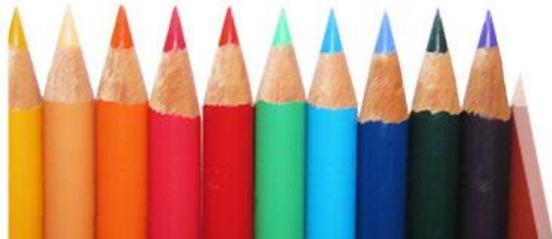
Savvy questions to ask:

- How many hours are tutors available? Is there a limit to the number of hours per week per student?
- Is my advisor trained to work with students with LD issues?
- Are there add costs for the services I need?
- Will my professors be notified of my LD/ADHD and is the notification done by the student or the Program Director?
- Are course substitutions allowed?
- Is any other assistive technology or human professional help available that I have not already asked you about?



Colleges noted for supporting Special Needs students

- **American University** (Washington, DC)
- **Curry College** (Milton, MA)
- **Hofstra University** (Hempstead, NY)
- **Landmark College** (Putney, VT)
- **Lynchburg College** (Lynchburg, VA)
- **Lynn University** (Boca Raton, FL)
- **Marist College** (Poughkeepsie, NY)
- **McDaniel College** (Westminster, MD)
- **Mitchell College** (New London, CT)
- **Muskingum University** (New Concord, OH)
- **Northeastern University** (Boston, MA)
- **The University of Arizona** (Tucson, AZ)
- **University of Denver** (Denver, CO)
- **University of Vermont** (Burlington, VT)
- **West Virginia Wesleyan College** (Buckhannon, WV)
- **Wingate University** (Wingate, NC)



Georgia Colleges & Universities



- NGTC offers students with learning disabilities classroom and testing accommodations.
 - Each student with special needs is also given adaptive equipment, career guidance, assistance with the entire admissions process and referrals to community service agencies.
 - Documentation of a disability diagnosis is required during enrollment.
- Andrew College has a Focus Program that helps people with documented learning disabilities and ADHD.
 - Andrew College is well equipped for helping students with learning disabilities, using laptops, dictionaries, tape recording lectures, calculators and scribes. Students are given quiet rooms for taking exams and extended times to take tests.



- Have an Access Office for SWD.
- Serves: learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, visual, hearing, mobility, psychiatric, and other health impairments.
- Services provided include test proctoring, classroom modifications, adaptive technology, sign language interpreting, note taking, faculty notification, and assistance with campus accessibility.
- Registered students may also receive help during the early registration process each semester



- 6 campuses: Dunwoody, Alpharetta, Clarkston, Newton, Decatur and online.
- The college has a Center for Disability Services that offers students an integrated approach.
- A documentation of a learning disability is required. Without an existing diagnosis, the student can request an evaluation by the Center of Disability Services. The campus coordinator will determine diagnosis and eligibility.
- Student will be required to contact the campus coordinator every semester and request academic support.



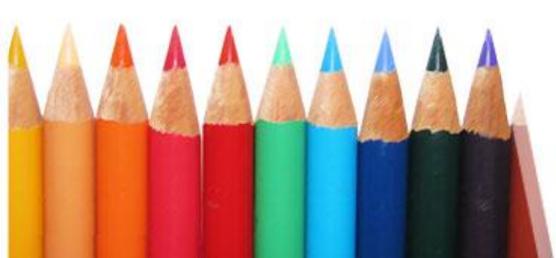
- Provides students with evaluations, support, research and assessments related to academic work and learning disabilities.
- There is a \$250 evaluation fee which includes an interview, preliminary testing, intake and feedback. This information is used to produce a custom plan for students with ADHD and learning disabilities.



- Emory gives each student with learning disabilities a consultation to determine the student's unique learning style.
- The university also offers one-on-one tutoring, support organizations and supplemental instruction outside of the classroom.
- Before enrolling, a student must meet with a counselor to determine her disability status.

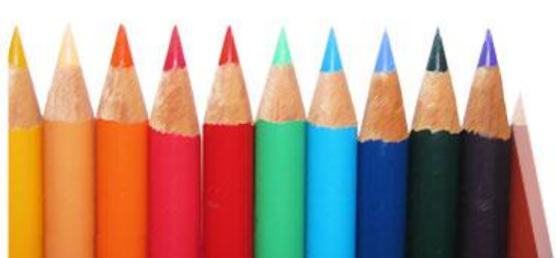
Once you GET there...

- Get acclimated to the campus (Orientation, Freshman Seminar, etc.)
- Create new, better habits
- Create & use Time Management calendar
- Attend every class (participate in study groups)
- Be on time – if not a little early
- Consider your syllabus your road map
- Seek help at the 1st sign of confusion
- Write the names and numbers (and emails) of 2 students on the syllabus of every class.
- Do your homework
- Ask questions
- Take harder classes M/W/F or during intersessions



Campus Life

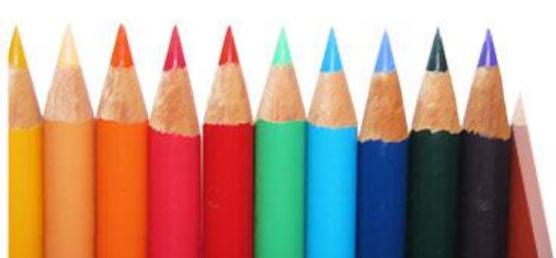
- College life is more than academics.
- Explore 1 or 2 student activities – but don't go overboard.
- Socializing should be reserved for nights when you don't have class the next morning/day.
- Try not to work (at least 1st sem)
- If you live on campus, do not expect your roommate to provide special services for you. Be prepared to explain your exceptionality if you are seeking peer support.
- Know your library & have a few places to study away from your dorm room.
- Use the resources provided by Student Services i.e. Career Services.



Last Thoughts



- Dropping a course does not equal failure.
- If you have problems with a foreign language course because of a documented language-based disability, you may be allowed to substitute courses. Check with the ODS.
- Learn how to recognize and manage stress, depression and resolve conflicts.
- Have a support system on and off campus. Your family will always be there for you.



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