The transition to college
Hello!

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Transition Specialist

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Post High School Counselor
Agenda

- Differences Between High School & College
- Types of College Supports
- College Application Process
- College Disability Services
High school vs college
Difference in the Law

**High School**
- Schools Responsibility
- LRE, quality, free
- Individualized Planning
- Related Services
- Transition Planning

**College**
- Individual Responsibility
- Focus on Accommodations
- Focus on non-discrimination and undue hardship
Changes in services

- Student transitions from an IEP to a 504 plan
- No more case management
- Students must self-identity
- Pay for services in some cases
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students learn about their disability, strengths and weaknesses with support of school staff and parents</td>
<td>Students must self identify, describe the disability, identify strengths and weaknesses, identify accommodations needed and become a competent self advocate</td>
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Student as Adult

- Students are considered adults
- Privacy required for FERPA
Difference in Requirements?

As a rule, No! But there are exceptions! Hold tight!
What Skills are required for college?

✘ Strong self-motivation in college prep courses
✘ Understanding of learning style, including an awareness of academic strengths and weaknesses
✘ Ability to function independently in the academic environment. There are no modifications in college
✘ Independence in seeking assistance and support
Questions Student should ask themselves

- Why do I want to attend college?
- Is my curriculum really preparing me for college?
- How much time is spent on studying?
- What independent living skills am I lacking?
- How much support am I currently using?
- What am I investing?
When typical college isn’t the right choice
Alternative post-secondary programs

✘ Contained facility or separate facility on traditional campus
✘ Small classes and selected faculty
✘ Focus on basic skills review, independent living skills
✘ Non-Degree Status
✘ Vocational Component
Local Options

✘ Career Foundations (Harper College)
✘ ELSA (Elmhurst College)
✘ PACE (National Louis University)
✘ Personal Success Program (College of Lake County)
✘ RISE (Judson University)
Non-Local Options

- Chapel Haven - Connecticut
- College Internship Program - Multiple Locations
- Horizon Program - Alabama - Birmingham
- Life Development Institute - Phoenix, AZ
- Minnesota Independence College & Community - Richfield, Minnesota
- Reach Program - University of Iowa
- Riverview School GROW Program - Massachusetts
Types of college services
2 Year College Options

✘ Technical Schools - Vocational/Certificates
✘ Community College
✘ Certificate Programs
✘ Associate Degrees
✘ 2 Year Colleges with Residential Options
✘ Vincennes University (STEP)
✘ Lincoln College (ACCESS)
✘ Kirkwood Community College
✘ Parkland College
Levels of Support

✘ Accommodations Only
  ✘ Students arrange the support
  ✘ Academic support is not centralized

✘ Comprehensive Programs
  ✘ Separate Application/Possible Fee
  ✘ Regular Scheduled Meetings
  ✘ Certified Providers

✘ Specific Colleges for Students with Disabilities
  ✘ Beacon College
  ✘ Landmark College
Accommodations

- There is usually a centralized hub for disability services
- Academic supports are not centralized
- Students arrange accommodations with their professors
Accommodations

- Structure for providing services
- Designated office in charge of making arrangements
- Tutoring may be available by LD Specialist or Peer/subject tutors supervised by director
- Learning specialist often coordinates services
Comprehensive Services

Fee for Service
Separate application
Study Skills Strategies
Personalized Attention
Time requirements for studying
Regular scheduled meetings with staff
Schools with Full Service Programs

• University of Arizona (SALT)
• University of Denver (LEP)
• University of Indianapolis (BUILD)
• Loras College (Enhanced)
• Lynn University (Institute for Achievement and Learning)
• Southern Illinois University (ACHIEVE Program)
• University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh (Project Success)
• University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
Colleges for Students with Disability

Landmark College (Vermont)
Beacon College (Florida)
College Application Process
Beginning the search

FACTORS:
- Size
- Location
- Majors/Programs
- Schools That Match the ACT/SAT and GPA
Narrowing the Search

✘ What is the best type of setting for the student?
✘ Class size/Teacher ratio
✘ Academic Support available to ALL students
✘ Disability support - what is available and is the students willing to access the supports
Apply To college First,
Apply to Disability Services Second
Personal Statement/Disclosure

- Voluntary
- Disclose during application or after acceptance?
- Additional Information rather than topic of essay
- Provide Context for Admissions
- Explain nature of disability and its impact
- Highlights growth
- Addresses anticipated support needs
Narrowing the Search

- Is the student ready socially
- Does the student possess the independence required?
- Mental health/Medical supports
Alternate Options

✘ Post-grad year
✘ Gap Year www.usagapyearfairs.org
College Disability Services
College Disability Services

- Students needs to contact the Disability Services Office to arrange an intake appointment
- Send documentation in advance
- Student should be prepared to share strengths/weaknesses and accommodations
Documentation

✗ Student Self Report
✗ Documentation
✗ IEP or 504
✗ Psychoeducational Testing/File Reviews
✗ Doctors Notes
✗ Summary of Performance
✗ Observation/Interaction
Documentation Should Include

❌ A disability diagnosis
❌ How does the disability manifest itself within the academic environment
❌ Based upon the impact of the disability, what accommodation(s) can we introduce that will lessen the impact of the disability within the academic setting?
Typical Accommodations in the College Environment

• Digital Textbooks
• Assistive Technology
• Extended Test Time/Alternative Testing
• Note takers
• Quiet Test Room
• Reader for Exams
• Scribe
• Sign language interpreters
• Use of Calculator/Computer
Differences Between High School and College

✘ High School: Students may have the ability to have requirements waived such as foreign language or complete less test questions

✘ College: All students, regardless of disability status are expected to meet the same requirements of a particular class or program of study
Advocacy

Student must self identify, speak with professors, request accommodations

Start working on this now!

✗ Email teachers
✗ Ask for accommodations
✗ Active participation in IEP Meetings
Resources

CHOICES Website  www.postsecondarychoices.org

- College Presentations
- College Search
- Resource Booklet
Choices college fair

October, 2021

Stevenson High School

www.postsecondarychoices.org
“Picking a college is like picking a spouse. You don’t pick the “top ranked” one, because that has no meaning. You pick the one with the personality and character that complements your own”
THANKS!

Any questions?