



This is an exciting time of life for a student! It is a time to think about your future, and to start questioning: "What do I enjoy doing? Do I want to go to college? What college or technical institute am I interested in?"

Just remember, the choices you make will determine your future!

Preparing for college or a technical institution is hard work, but the reward will be worth it. The work you do will prepare you for the work you need to do in a college/technical institute setting.

Now go work hard to prepare for your future!



PRE-HIGH SCHOOL

9TH GRADE

10TH GRADE

11TH GRADE

12TH GRADE

Pre-High School

1. Register for challenging classes in English, mathematics, science, history, geography, and foreign language.
2. Learn what study skills work for you. Find out how to save money for college and the options available for financial aid.
3. Improve any basic skills deficits in reading, mathematics, and oral and written language.
4. Begin a file for the papers that will help in making the transition from high school to college (e.g., IEPs/Section 504 accommodation plans, testing, resources, and study tips).

Freshman (9th grade)

1. Understand what your disability is. Describe how it affects your learning.
2. Actively participate in making your IEP/Section 504 accommodation plan.
3. Work with your school counselor to get the credits and classes needed to meet most college admission requirements.
4. Use accommodations, auxiliary, and/or other services to assist you in learning how to learn.
5. Check out the college resources available to you at your high school, such as concurrent enrollment, technical training, and/or informational pamphlets.
6. Get involved in activities (e.g., leadership, service clubs, recognition).

Sophomore (10th grade)

1. Find programs and areas of interest. Search colleges for more information about programs of interest.
2. Investigate careers and jobs that are interesting to you.
3. Have conversations with people who can tell you more about careers and jobs.
4. Start saving funds for college.

Junior (11th grade)

1. Take an active part in your IEP/Section 504 process. Ask for help understanding your disability. Find out what resources are available.
2. Begin to match interests and hobbies with academic programs and colleges.
3. Investigate numerous majors and colleges that match your needs and interests.
4. Begin studying or take a course to prepare for the ACT or SAT. Be aware of deadlines to register and dates of tests.
5. Learn time management and study skills, stress management, how to advocate for yourself, and how to prepare for a test. Practice these skills.
6. Talk with representatives, then visit your school or take a tour at a college. Visit at a time when it is less busy so they will be able to take you on a tour of the school and answer any questions you may have.
7. Keep a folder with all your documentation. Make sure you keep it current. Look at learning disability testing, if applicable.

8. Make an appointment with your school counselor to discuss senior classes and classes you may be able to take for college credit.

Senior (12th grade)

1. Meet with your school counselor to discuss senior plans and college plans.
2. Increase study skills and self-advocacy skills. Know whom to speak to for assistance, and what solutions may be available.
3. Gather copies of your transcripts, evaluations, a copy of the latest IEP/Section 504 accommodation plan, and medical records if applicable. Include any tests you have taken, such as the ACT, SAT, or ASVAB. Also, include a list of accommodations you received in high school.
4. Turn in scholarship applications in November through February. Fill out and turn in financial aid applications. The deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/scholarship> is February 1!
5. Complete applications neatly and accurately. Follow the directions and watch for deadlines. You may wish to apply to more than one college.
6. Make an appointment and visit with the disability or accessibility office any time after February. Registration usually starts in April for the following fall semester.
7. Contact Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to determine eligibility for services while in college. You can work with the local VR office even if the college is far away.

start planning



