What should I think about BEFORE I apply for college?

Educational Issues:
- Are you motivated to do your best and work hard?
- Have you taken the courses in high school that you need to get accepted to a university?
- Have you taken ACTs/SATs (these are tests you have to take to get admitted to a university)?
- Have you visited the campus(es) you are interested in?
- Are you familiar with assistive technology that may help you succeed in school (e.g. Kurzweil, Dragon NaturallySpeaking, Write: OutLoud)?

Health Issues:
- Do you have health care coverage?
- Have you found a pharmacy that takes your health insurance?
- Have you found a doctor you can see while you are at school?
- Where will you get equipment serviced (i.e. wheelchair repairs, computer problems)?
- Do you have copies of your medical records to take with you to school?
- Are your immunizations up to date (i.e. hepatitis, flu shot, Pneumococcal)?

How do I choose a 4-year college?

Career:
- Talk to people who have gone to college and ask what they liked about it.
- Think about what the campus is like (social activities, level of student activity on campus).
- Think about the college setting (location, size of campus).
- Make a transition plan with your high school guidance counselor, case manager, regular or special education teacher so you have all the high school credits you need to go to college.
- Call to make sure the disability services center can provide the accommodations you need. Ask or visit to see how barrier free the campus is.

Health:
- If you have health issues that could mean you have to go to the hospital, does the nearest hospital have the expertise to treat you?
- Does the campus health center have experience treating people with disabilities?
- What is the school’s policy if you miss classes because of a health or disability issue?

What can I do if I get denied admission?
Contact the disability services office on the campus you were denied admission from and let them know why you were denied (i.e. not enough math credits, class rank too low). Ask for an exception for admission based on your disability. The disability services office can usually work with the admissions office for an exception based on disability-related issues.
How do I apply for disability services?

- **Apply early!**
- **You must** go to the disability services office on the campus you are attending to request disability-related accommodations.
- Visit the disability services office no later than one semester before you will start classes to make sure you have time to meet their documentation guidelines and services can be set up and ready for you on the first day of classes. This is especially important if you need a Sign Language Interpreter, taped or scanned textbooks, or need your materials Brailled.
- **You** will be asked for documentation of your disability, which you can usually get from your medical doctor, psychiatrist, psychologist, or neurologist. Each campus has their own guidelines for what they will accept for documentation and will give this info to you.
- **There is no IEP in college. Services are individualized.**

What will help me be successful in college?

Things that worked in high school may not work in college. Think about new ideas for helping you learn best. Here are some common accommodations to think about:

- Note takers so you can concentrate on the lecture.
- Adaptive testing (extended time, computer for essays).
- In and/or out of class aides/homework aides.
- Excused absences for health related issues.
- Tutoring.
- Taped or scanned textbooks.
- Adaptive equipment (i.e. software).

Other important information

- It’s important to use services if you need them because it can help you pass your classes.
- Know your disability and the accommodations you need!
- Talk to your professors during scheduled office hours. They will be more focused to talk to you about your accommodations at that time.
- Make sure your equipment works properly each year (e.g. have your wheelchair checked each year or have your laptop or software updated).

What types of degrees can you earn from a 4-year college?

- BA Bachelor Arts
- BBA Bachelor of Businesses Administration
- BFA Bachelor of Fine Arts
- BS Bachelor of Science
- BSE Bachelor of Science Education
- Pre Professional Programs

What types of extra-curricular activities are available on campus?

- Clubs and organizations based on your major and your interests.
- Recreational/competitive sports and recreational activities.
- Special events (e.g. bands, comedians).

Tips:

- Sign up at fairs so you can get more information and meet people.
- Stick to one or two activities in the beginning. You can always add more later in your college career – beware of taking on too much and not doing well with anything.
- Think about the environment of certain activities – will it work for you?
How is 4 year college different from high school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults remind you of your responsibilities.</td>
<td>You are responsible for your activities and the decisions you make. You have to accept the consequences of what you do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are usually told what to do and corrected</td>
<td>You are not told what to do, if you’re out of line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time is usually structured by others.</td>
<td>You manage your own time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes are arranged for you and are on a set schedule.</td>
<td>You create your own schedule. Try to plan your schedule with things like stamina and medication side effects in mind. Think about when you learn best – morning, afternoon or evening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom accommodations are taken care of by your IEP team.</td>
<td>It is up to you to find the Disability Services Office to disclose your disability and arrange for classroom accommodations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information...

- University of Wisconsin System – [www.wisconsin.edu/](http://www.wisconsin.edu/)
- Opening Doors to Postsecondary Education & Training – [dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/tranopndrs.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/tranopndrs.pdf)
- Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities – [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html)
- Staying healthy – [www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm)