

2014 Higher Education Resource Guide

for Students with Disabilities

Your Name



TEXAS COUNCIL *for* DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2014 HIGHER EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Download this document from the TCDD website — tcdd.texas.gov/resources/publications/

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Website links current as of October 2014



Photos: courtesy TEA

INTRODUCTION

Now more than ever, students with disabilities have access to educational supports, accommodations and resources that assist them in continuing their education beyond high school and preparing for a career. But higher education (also called postsecondary education) is more than just job training. It opens doors to new friendships, opportunities, experiences and careers. It can broaden your abilities — both socially and academically — while increasing your independence, job choices, knowledge and income.

Studies indicate that almost all colleges are enrolling students with disabilities. About 11% of college undergraduates are considered individuals with disabilities (about 707,000 students nationwide). While schools are becoming better skilled at supporting individuals with physical and learning disabilities, you may need to do a lot of research to find a school that meets your needs and goals. Designed for students with disabilities,

this guide also includes information for parents, teachers, counselors, and vocational and transition staff. We hope it will make it easier for you to find resources to plan for the future and obtain the education that supports your employment goals.

While this guide focuses mainly on attending college, it also touches on other options, such as online training and technical and trade schools. Additional options include job training programs, adult education programs and new transition models for students with disabilities.

Each section of this guide is broken into subtopics that provide tips to help you prepare for higher education and website links where you can find more information. We are excited by the many possibilities ahead and hope this guide helps you on your journey.

Thinking Ahead

It is never too soon to start planning for higher education. All schooling from kindergarten through high school is designed to prepare all students for life after graduation. Now is a good time to try new things to see what you like, build skills and experiences, and start saving money — even if it is only a small amount each month.

Getting Ready for Higher Education

The better prepared you are for higher education, the easier it will be to be successful. Getting prepared includes developing good study habits, exploring educational options, considering how you will pay for higher education, and thinking about a career field. You also need to take the classes and tests required by the school(s) you want to attend. Please note, Texas high school graduation plans require different classes, and some graduation plans and class modifications may restrict admission to some schools.

While in high school, prepare yourself to assume more responsibility and advocate for yourself. If you go to college, you are responsible for registering for classes, managing your time effectively and arranging for supports and accommodations you need.

Resources for Students

Going to College: High School “To Do” Lists

www.going-to-college.org/planning/list.html

Tasks for each year of high school.

Going to College: My Place

www.going-to-college.org/myplace/

Tips and activities to help you determine your learning style and strengths, explore interests,

understand challenges, set goals and become a self-advocate.

The Next Step (Video and Discussion Guide)

tcdd.texas.gov/resources/publications/the-next-step-video-and-discussion-guide

In this video, five Texans with disabilities share their stories about attending higher education schools. Included are discussion sheets with tips to share with parents, teachers, counselors, and vocational and transition staff.

Online Networking & Mentoring Community: DO-IT!

lifeafterieps.com/online-networking-and-mentoring-community-do-it

A free and safe online community that connects high school students with disabilities to college students and adult mentors.

Preparing for College

ncld.org/parents-child-disabilities/teens/preparing-for-college

Information to help students understand the demands of college and academic preparation, explore college environments, and obtain supports and services.

College and Career Readiness

parentcenterhub.org/priority-cc-readiness/#what

College guides and resources links.

Resources for Parents

Graduation Programs: What is the best graduation plan for your child?

tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=25769809836&libID=25769809849

Side-by-side comparison of graduation program options to be implemented beginning in 2014 for students who entered grade 9 before the 2014–2015 school year. (307 KB, 2 pages)

Extracurricular Activities and Volunteering

While some vocational and trade schools require a high school diploma to apply, college admission committees consider everything about you including your high school grades and scores on college entrance exams. They want to know what classes you took, life experiences, personal attitudes and academic interests that show both your strengths and the challenges you face.

Colleges cannot deny you admission only because you have a disability, but you need to demonstrate that you will make a good student. Typical extracurricular activities could be participating in clubs, sports, doing volunteer work or some type of community service. Keep a list of the following:

- hobbies
- religious activities
- training and camps attended
- skills learned while in high school
- awards received or accomplishments

Keep track of your extracurricular activities including dates, times and number of hours. Keeping a list will make it easier to complete applications for higher education, scholarships and financial aid.

Resources for Students

Volunteer Match

volunteermatch.org

Volunteer opportunities by ZIP code or interest.

Resources for Counselors

The Extracurricular Edge: What your students should know about out-of-school activities

professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/prepare/extracurricular

Helping students select extracurricular activities.

| EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Clubs: | |
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| | |
| Sports: | |
| | |
| | |
| Volunteering: | |
| | |
| | |
| Camps: | |
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| | |
| Music: | |
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| Awards: | |
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Employment and Career Goals: What You Want to Do Affects School Options

Your interests, abilities and goals will affect the kinds of jobs you may want and what schools you should attend. To get some ideas on what kind of work you want to do, you can take vocational interest and aptitude tests and talk with your family, friends, teachers and counselors. Once you know what kind of job you want, explore the training and schools that will prepare you and work best for you.

Resources for Students

Access Careers: Precollege Students

washington.edu/doit/Careers/precollege_stu.html

Work-based learning for high school students to explore career interests and develop job skills.

School Transition Program

dars.state.tx.us/publications/pdf/01827.pdf

Contact numbers and services available from the Division for Rehabilitation Services of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. (450KB, 2 pages)

Texas Workforce Commission: Career Exploration & Trends

twc.state.tx.us/customers/jsemp/career-exploration-trends.html

Career opportunities and planning, wages, occupations, and job market and employment trends.

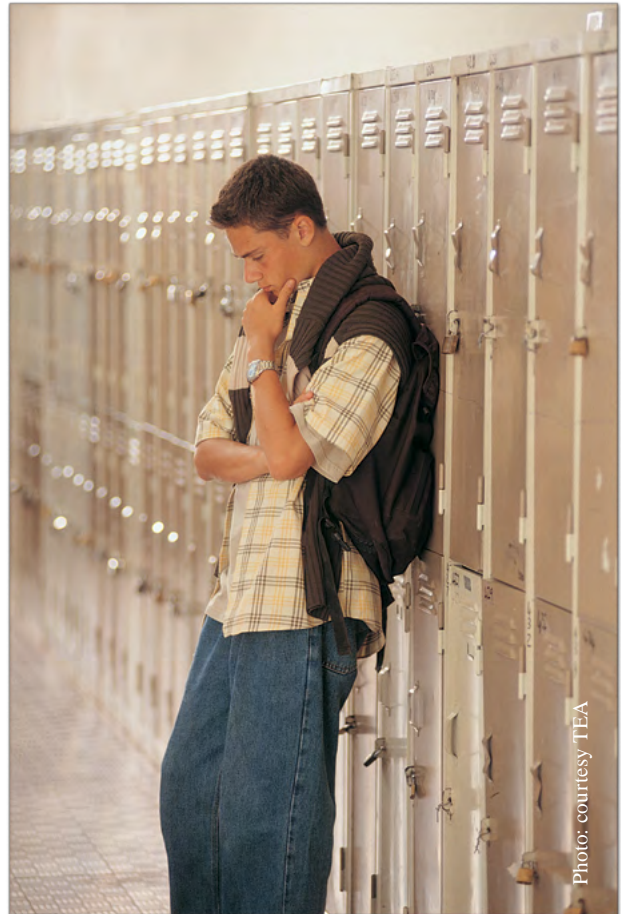
Vocational Rehabilitation for Persons with Physical and Mental Disabilities

dars.state.tx.us/drs/vr.shtml

Overview of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Vocation Rehabilitation Program.

Types of Schools and Special Options

There are many types of schools to choose from depending on your career and personal goals,



budget, individual preferences, accommodations needed and other factors. There are also some special options for students with disabilities, including an option for students who receive special education services to continue their high school education after graduation. Some individuals can attend community college classes while still receiving special education support from their school district.

Other possibilities include:

- Two-year community or junior colleges
- Four-year colleges
- College programs designed specifically for students with disabilities
- Vocational, technical or trade schools, or internships and apprenticeship programs that prepare you for a specific job
- Adult education courses at many school districts and community colleges that provide training for adults who would like to learn new skills.

Resources for Students

Career and Technical Education

heath.gwu.edu/career-and-technical-education

How Career and Technical Education (CTE) is helpful to students with disabilities, the difference between an Associate in Science (AS) and Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree, and what questions should be answered before choosing a CTE program.

College or Training Programs: How to Decide

ldonline.org/article/12768

Options to consider before graduation and what to discuss with family members and your Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.

Community College

heath.gwu.edu/community-college

Community college as an option for students with disabilities.

Knowing Your Options: What to Do and Where to Go

heath.gwu.edu/awareness-postsecondary-options

Overview of educational and training options available after high school to students with disabilities.

Can't Afford School or Need a Break?

Going straight from high school to higher education isn't a good fit for everyone. Some people want a break, a chance to achieve a personal goal or time to earn money for school. You can also use this time to do volunteer work, take remedial classes or strengthen skills in weak subjects, or gain new experiences and increase your self-advocacy abilities. Another option is serving in AmeriCorps, which provides educational funds and a small stipend for doing community service jobs.

Resources for Students

AmeriCorps: Overview — For Individuals

nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps

Programs, eligibility requirements, benefits of service and frequently asked questions.

Gap Year

nacacnet.org/studentinfo/articles/Pages/Gap-Year-.aspx

Alternatives to going to college right after high school.



Photo: iStock



Photo: courtesy Census Bureau

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Parents, teachers and other professionals have an important role in encouraging you and other students with disabilities to attend higher education and helping you achieve your goals as you enter adulthood. This includes supporting you in preparing and applying for college, as well as making the transition to higher education and directing your own life. General college resources also offer important information about higher education that can help you and other students with disabilities to reach your goals. The following resources can be beneficial for students with disabilities, parents and professionals.

Resources for Parents

Healthy and Ready for College!

thinkcollege.net/images/stories/Insight8.pdf

Explores health care challenges for youth with intellectual disabilities. Includes a skills checklist for managing care. (101KB, 4 pages)

Parent Advocacy Brief — Transition to College: Strategic Planning to Ensure Success for Students With Learning Disabilities

ncl.org/images/stories/Publications/AdvocacyBriefs/TransitiontoCollege/TransitiontoCollege.pdf

IDEA, Section 504, student rights and responsibilities, checklist for the critical points in college transition planning (ages 12-18). (320KB, 12 pages)

Parents' Guide to Transition

heath.gwu.edu/parent-guide-to-transition

Your role in transition planning, how to be involved in the transition, the differences in the rights and responsibilities of schools and students as your child moves from high school to college, and what to ask when you tour college campuses.

Resources for Educators

2013-2014 Counselors and Mentors Handbook on Federal Student Aid

financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources/counselors-handbook-2013-14.pdf

A guide for those advising students about financial aid for higher education. (1.1 MB, 55 pages)

Accommodations and Universal Design

washington.edu/doit/Faculty/Strategies

Examples of accommodations for students with specific disabilities in different academic settings, such as large lecture halls, group discussions, distance learning courses, labs and field trips. How universal design can reduce the need for accommodations.

Guidance and Career Counselors' Toolkit: Advising High School Students with Disabilities on Postsecondary Options

heath.gwu.edu/sites/heath.gwu.edu/files/downloads/Toolkit%202014.pdf

Answers questions counselors frequently ask. The information is also good for students and families. (2MB, 192 pages)

The Next Step (Video and Discussion Guide)

tcdd.texas.gov/resources/publications/the-next-step-video-and-discussion-guide

Information sheets — targeted to teachers, counselors, vocational and transition staff, students and parents — accompany a video of five Texans with disabilities who attended colleges, universities or technical schools.

The Transition Coalition

transitioncoalition.org/transition/

Resources and professional development on transitioning to adult life for youth with disabilities.

Resources for Students, Parents and Educators

College for All Texans

collegefortexans.com

Planning for college; selecting a Texas university, college, junior college or technical school; college locator; and applying for college and financial aid (in English and Spanish).

Every Chance, Every Texan

everychanceeverytexan.org

College and career planning information includes job trends, career guidance, paying for college, and admission, tuition and financial aid information of Texas colleges and universities. The website also has targeted resources for parents and grandparents, students, counselors, employers, and financial professionals.

Know How To Go

knowhow2go.com

Encourages 8th through 12th graders to prepare for college. The Mentors section (in English and Spanish) advises parents, guardians, teachers, mentors and other caring adults who aren't familiar with the college process on how to help their students succeed.



Selecting a School: The Application Process

In choosing and applying to a school, it is important to look at the school's full environment including learning opportunities and other characteristics, such as accessibility, supports, social aspects and inclusiveness, and work opportunities after completing the training.

Choose the Best School for You

Finding a school that meets your individual needs, goals and preferences becomes easier when you think about what you want and the type of environment that works best for you.

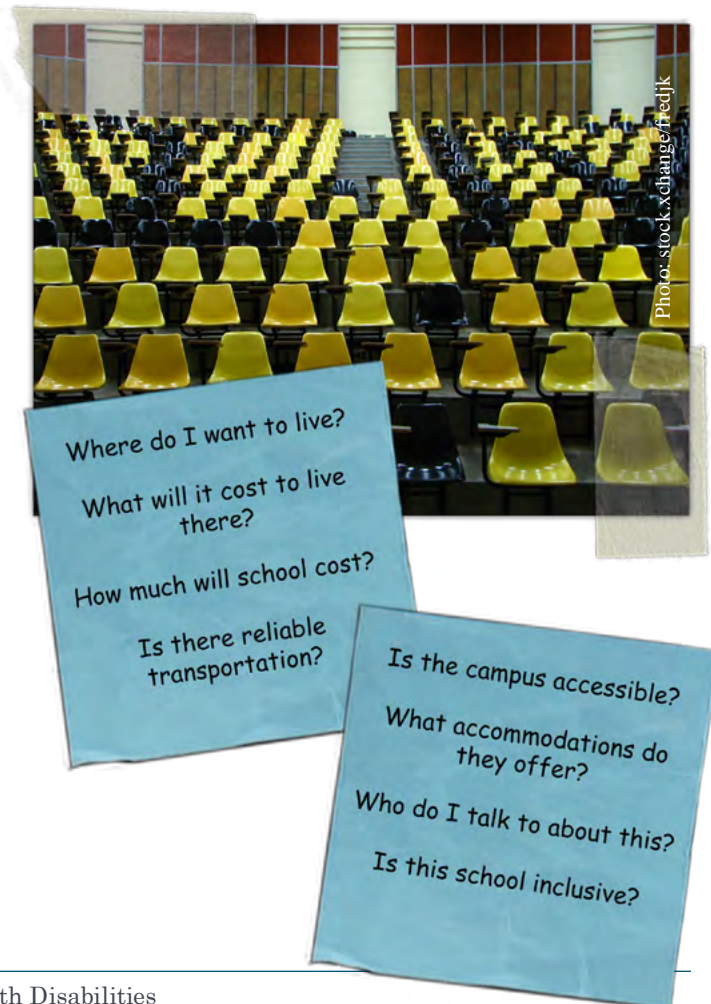
First think about what job you want and what schools will prepare you for it. Then look for a good academic and social match. Some things to consider include:

- where you want to live
- school and living costs
- if you prefer a small or large school
- if the campus is accessible
- transportation
- what accommodations are available
- if the people are welcoming and the school feels inclusive.

Also think about applying to alternative schools in case you do not get accepted into your first school of choice.

Many students start with community college and then transfer to a four-year college to save money, to allow more time to decide on a career, or because they do not feel prepared yet for a four-year college. A lot of online research can be done on a school, but nothing reveals more than a campus visit. When

you tour a school, you can meet with advisors, ask about financial aid, and request an appointment with the school's Office of Disability Services to see what accommodations they can provide such as adaptive technology, tutors or other services.



You can also ask to talk with other students who have disabilities about their experiences, or ask to sit in on a class as a prospective student (maybe going with another student with disabilities).

Resources for Students

Applying for College

going-to-college.org/planning/applying.html

Overview of the college application process, including writing essays and getting letters of recommendation.

Choosing a College

going-to-college.org/planning/choosing.html

What to consider when choosing a college including waivers and substitutions, course load and graduation time, student groups, support sessions, and orientation sessions for students with disabilities.

College Match-up

collegeforalltexas.com/apps/CollegeMatchUp/

Select what's important to you and make a match.

Getting into College: What Students with Disabilities Want to Know

chattahoocheetech.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/What-Students-with-Disabilities-Want-To-Know.pdf

How college is different from high school, preparing and planning for college, the admissions process, how to decide what accommodations you will need, and how to choose a college. (212KB, 12 pages)

Admissions and Placement Testing

Some technical schools have no entrance requirements other than high school graduation. Most four-year colleges require you to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) entrance exams. Most students take one of these tests two times to improve their score. If you want accommodations for the test, submit the required documentation at least two months before the test date. Community colleges

often require students to take the ASSET or COMPASS tests to identify their strengths or determine if extra training is needed in any areas. You can apply for accommodations for these tests too.

Resources for Students

College Board: Services for Students with Disabilities

collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities

How to apply for accommodations for college board tests and use of accommodations after approval.

Free SAT, ACT and GRE Test Preparation number2.com

Free online test preparation, tutorials and practice sessions that adapt to each student's ability level, a vocabulary builder, and more.

College Applications, Essays and More

Each school has its own application process and deadlines, so be sure to check what the individual school requires. To make it a little easier, all public universities in Texas — as well as many community and private colleges — use the same basic admission application.

Most colleges also require you to complete at least one essay. The topics change each year and may give you an opportunity to discuss your disability



Photo: courtesy TEA

as it relates to your life experiences, personal attitudes and academic interests. Schools often want letters of recommendation too. Letters are usually from teachers, but they can be from other adults or professionals who know you. You also need to submit high school (and college) transcripts that show the classes you took and your grades.

Resources for Students

Apply Texas

applytexas.org

Online admission application to any Texas public university and to participating community and private colleges.

Applying for College

going-to-college.org/planning/applying.html

College application process overview including essays and letters of recommendation.

Ask Early and Nicely for Letters of Recommendation

usnews.com/education/blogs/the-scholarship-coach/2011/02/24/ask-early-and-nicely-for-letters-of-recommendation

Letters of recommendation advice for scholarship applications including how early to request, how to ask, and what information to provide to letter writers.

Working with High School, Transition and Vocational Staff

Selecting a career path and navigating the admissions process and costs and demands of higher education is challenging. You can ask for help from teachers, school counselors, as well as vocational and transition staff.

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) can also help you plan for the transition to higher education and work. DARS staff can assist you with participating in ARD meetings, getting disability evaluations and tests, and work training including college, technical schools and on-the-job training.

Please note, you may need recent disability testing and documentation to get accommodations in higher education schools, so check ahead of time to see if the documentation you have meets what is required by the school you want to attend. Your high school or DARS may be able to help you get updated tests during your last year of special education services, but DARS can only help with testing if they need to test you to determine if you qualify for services.

Resources for Students

School Transition Program

dars.state.tx.us/publications/pdf/01827.pdf

Contact numbers and services available through DARS Division for Rehabilitation Services. (450KB, 2 pages)



The Vocational Rehabilitation System in Texas

disabilityrightstx.org/files/The-Vocational-Rehabilitation-System-in-Texas.pdf

How to get vocational rehabilitation services, the Individualized Plan for Employment, and what to do if you have a problem with services.

(105KB, 6 pages)

Vocational Rehabilitation for Persons with Physical and Mental Disabilities

dars.state.tx.us/drs/vr.shtml

DARS Vocational Rehabilitation Program overview including help for people with disabilities to prepare for, find and keep employment.

Resources for Parents

Texas Project FIRST: Transition and the IEP

texasprojectfirst.org/TransitionIEP.html

What parents need to know about transition services including links to other resources.

Plan How to Pay for School

There are many ways to pay for college from building a savings account or college fund, to applying for scholarships and loans and participating in a school's work-study program.

Financial aid application deadlines vary, and some schools bundle aid programs into one application to make it easier. You can also check on scholarships for students with disabilities, assistance with disability-related expenses, and help from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

Most scholarships require you to re-apply each year. The average cost for tuition, books and supplies, and room and board for two semesters at the state's four-year public colleges in 2014-2015 is \$17,842.

Resources for Students

College Costs

collegeforalltexas.com

Average tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses

for Texas public and independent universities, community and junior colleges, technical colleges, health-related institutions, state colleges, and chiropractic institutions.

Paying for College

[collegefortexans.com/Paying for College](http://collegefortexans.com/Paying-for-College)

Options for paying tuition and fees, types of financial aid, how to apply for financial aid, savings plans, and how to avoid scholarship scams.

2014-15 Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar

everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars

List of Texas colleges and universities, admission requirements, expenses for a school year, financial aid data, and scholarship deadlines.

Federal Student Aid (U.S. Department of Education)

studentaid.ed.gov

How to prepare for college, what types of aid are available, how to qualify and apply for aid, and how to manage loans.

Grants for Individuals with Disabilities

staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/3disable.htm

Grants and scholarships available to students with disabilities — some with deadlines listed.

Financial Aid, Scholarships and Internships

heath.gwu.edu/financial-aid-scholarships-and-internships

Financial aid available to students with disabilities overview including available federal grant programs, types of student loans, and disability-related expenses and resources.

Congratulations: You Are Accepted

Higher education is very different from high school. There is more freedom and more responsibility. You will be expected to make all arrangements for yourself and complete all course assignments without any prompting. While attending classes and staying on top of homework are important, so are social activities, clubs and relationships. The key is to find a healthy balance.

Adjusting to Higher Education

Once you are accepted into a school, the following can make the transition easier:

- Register for a campus orientation and ask if they have a summer transition program.
- Register for classes and learn your way around campus. Visit your classrooms to learn where they are and check accessibility.
- Arrange for housing, transportation, meals, and paying bills.
- Arrange for supports and develop back-up plans. If you want accommodations or supports from the school, submit documentation on your disability.
- Collect health care documents and determine whom to contact and where to go in case of an emergency.
- If you want the school to share information with your parents, consider signing a release.

Resources for Students

A Nuts and Bolts Guide to College Success for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
sercdoutreach.wikispaces.com/file/view/The+Nuts+and+Bolts+Guide+to+College+for+Deaf+and+Hard+of+Hearing+Students.pdf

Keys to college success, choosing classes, daily to-do lists, self-advocacy, transition to college, financial aid, accommodations, campus life and much more. Information is written for students who are deaf which is also useful to all students. (5MB, 132 pages)

From Where I Sit

calstate.edu/accessibility/resources/videos.shtml

Video series of eight California State University students with disabilities sharing their experiences in college classrooms including teachers' viewpoints.

Campus Life for Students with Disabilities

going-to-college.org/campuslife/

What to expect in college and what your professors will expect including tips for getting good grades and accommodations and using technology.

Navigating College Handbook on Self Advocacy

navigatingcollege.org/download.php

Written for students with autism by adults with autism about advocacy, accommodations, independent living, health and safety, self-advocacy, and social issues including links to other resources which are also useful to all students.

Working with Disability Services and Other Supports

It's important to seek help when you need it and arrange for reliable supports. This will help minimize stress, improve your grades, and help you qualify for financial aid.

For disability accommodations, you must disclose your disability and provide the required documentation about your disability. This is usually done before classes start with the school's disability services office — staff can tell you what is needed. Also, ask if there is a special disability orientation, discuss what accommodations you will need, and find out what services and supports the school can provide including adaptive technology, tutors or other services. Some schools are better at providing supports than others, and accommodations must be requested each semester. If you are requesting accommodations, you need to give accommodations letters to your teachers, discuss your support needs, and advocate to ensure accommodations are provided to you if needed.

Talk with all of your teachers even if you are not requesting accommodations. Most teachers are willing to work with students who get to know them, participate in class, and ask for help.

Talk with other students with disabilities who can give you valuable tips, see if there are mentors on campus, and get the phone numbers and email addresses of fellow students in your classes for when you need something explained. If your disabilities affect your capacity to succeed in some classes, the disability services office may help you request substitute classes for classes that are not essential for your major.

You can also use supports available to all students such as counseling services, help with study skills, proofreading services, study groups and websites that rate teachers to help you choose classes that match your learning style. A learning coach or a tutor can help you with choosing classes, creating a study schedule and degree planning.

Resources for Students

Academic and Co-Curricular Accommodations in Colleges and Universities

heath.gwu.edu/accommodations

The role of Disability Support Services programs, things to do before applying to and attending college, what types of accommodations are typically offered at colleges, and how universal design in learning is applied in the college environment.

Making the Move to Managing Your Own Personal Assistance Services (PAS): A Toolkit for Youth with Disabilities Transitioning to Adulthood

newd-youth.info/PAS-Toolkit

Guide designed to help strengthen essential skills for managing PAS: effective communication, time-management, working with others, and establishing professional relationships.

Questions Regarding Disability Services

educationquest.org/11th-12th-grade-students/information-for-students-with-disabilities/swd-questions-to-ask/

Questions to ask college disability services coordinators to help determine what services and accommodations are available including questions disability services coordinators may ask students.

The Why, When, What and How of Disclosure in an Academic Setting, After High School

dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/wwwwh.htm

Accommodations are provided by a school's disability support service only if you disclose your disability and request accommodations.

The timing of disclosure depends on when accommodations are needed.

Self-Advocacy and Understanding Your Rights and Responsibilities

You have to find out about the many resources there are at the school and community to help you succeed in higher education. Ask for help and stand up for yourself, your goals and your

rights — no one will be checking to see how you are doing. You are responsible for all aspects of your higher education from selecting classes that meet your degree plan to paying bills, obtaining supports, attending classes, completing class work on time, eating well and getting enough sleep.

If you live at home or close to home, your parents and friends may provide some support allowing you to gradually take control of more parts of your life. Getting to know other students will help you adjust to school and new responsibilities and give you ideas on succeeding.

It is normal to feel overwhelmed at times. It can help to make lists of what you need to do, work ahead, do the best you can in the time available, and plan time for fun and consider joining student clubs and organizations related to your studies.

Higher education is a time to learn more about yourself and your chosen career while enjoying new experiences and taking control of your own life.

Resources for Students

Avoiding Studying Traps

campushealth.unc.edu/health-topics/academic-success/obstacles-academic-success/avoiding-study-traps

Tips to avoid common study traps.

Self-advocacy — Durham College Centre for Students with Disabilities

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wPxq-NOZjg

Video about self-advocacy with students emphasizing the importance and benefits of working with campus disability services.

Study Skills Guide

csbsju.edu/academic-advising/study-skills-guide

Tips to help with time management, listening, taking notes, and taking tests.

Study Strategies

d.umn.edu/student/loon/acad/strat

Strategies to help with study skills, time

management, motivation, taking notes, and taking tests; and creating your own study skills profile instructions.

Tips for Students with Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorders and Related Disabilities

newschool.edu/student-services/student-disability-services/students/tips

Tips to talk with teachers about accommodations.

Know the Law

The main laws protecting college students with disabilities are the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which both prohibit discrimination against “otherwise qualified” individuals on the basis of disability.

While colleges are required to provide reasonable accommodations to make their programs accessible to students with disabilities, they are not required to provide personal services such as occupational or speech therapy, individual tutoring, classroom aides for such non-academic purposes as self-care or handling materials, and transportation.

Resources for Students

ADA Q & A: Section 504 & Postsecondary Education

pacer.org/publications/adaqa/504.asp

How the ADA and Section 504 apply to postsecondary educational programs.

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, Agency Overview

ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/

The mission of the Office for Civil Rights is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights. The Office for Civil Rights serves student populations facing discrimination and the advocates and institutions promoting systemic solutions to civil rights problems.

Disability Discrimination Resources

ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/disabilityresources.html

Success stories, technical assistance materials and links to other resources.

Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

ed.gov/ocr/transition.html

Rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities, as well as the responsibilities postsecondary schools have toward students with disabilities.

What If You Don't Get Accepted into a School?

It's always smart to think about what you will do if you are not accepted into any school where you applied, including the following:

- Consider if other schools or types of training will meet your goals. Community colleges usually have an open door admissions policy for individuals who have graduated from high school or have a GED. Many students start here and then transfer to other schools.

- Contact the school's admissions office and ask what would improve your chances of being admitted the next semester.
- Look for classes or other training to strengthen weak skill areas.
- Ask if it is possible to get a waiver or probation that allows you to be admitted on a trial basis — this may give you time to show you can handle the workload and earn good grades.
- Consider volunteering or apply for a job related to your career choice.
- Consider other career options you would like.

Resources for Students

Plan B: What if I'm Not Accepted to College?

nacacnet.org/studentinfo/articles/Pages/PlanB.aspx

Options if you don't get accepted into the college of your choice including nontraditional admission, community colleges or taking a year off.



Texas Schools, Colleges and Universities

Texas has 38 public universities, 77 community colleges, and 39 private universities, as well as five technical colleges and other types of schools. More than 1,481,500 individuals were enrolled in the state's colleges and universities in the fall of 2012.

Texas Colleges and Universities

Texas Institutions of Higher Education

collegeforalltexans.com/index.cfm?objectid=F37DB129-AF15-41BB-E94442470E41B678

Links to Texas public and private college websites, organized by type of school, location and personal interests (in English and Spanish).

2014-15 Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar

everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars/

List of Texas colleges and universities, admission requirements, expenses for a academic school year, financial aid data, and scholarship deadlines.

Vocational, Trade and Career Schools

Career Colleges & Schools of Texas Directory

ccst.org/page/members/SchoolMembers#action=AdvancedSearch&cid=737&did=1&listingType=0

Directory of CCST member schools. CCST is the state association for private, post-secondary institutions that prepare people for jobs.

Texas Vocational Schools

texas-vocational-schools.com

Searchable database of private vocational schools that offer healthcare, business, legal, arts, Information Technology and trade programs.

Texas Workforce Commission: Texas Schools

texasindustryprofiles.com/apps/sti/contacts.asp

Contact information and links to websites for community and technical colleges, public universities, health-related institutions, career schools and colleges, degree granting proprietary schools, and independent universities.

Texas Workforce Commission: Texas Schools by Type of Degree

texasindustryprofiles.com/apps/sti/by_degree.asp

Find a school by the type of degree and program including short-term workforce, technical certificate, and advanced technical certificate programs.

Trade Schools in Texas

abouttradeschools.com/unitedstates/texas

Texas trade schools for students pursuing a career in the technical fields of art, design, business, automotive, information technology, health care, culinary or education.



Photo: courtesy TEA

ONLINE AND NATIONAL SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

CollegeAtlas
collegeatlas.org

Information on colleges and universities, community colleges, online colleges and majors nationwide by ZIP code and career interest.

Texas Distance Education Programs
txelectroniccampus.org

More than 3,400 online courses and 18 complete degree programs.

Online Colleges
onlinecolleges.net

Search for U.S. colleges by degree, diploma or certificate, category, and subject; explore careers; and search for online learning strategies.

OnlineColleges.net — Texas
onlinecolleges.net/state/texas

Post-secondary opportunities in Texas with links to websites, type of school, and programs offered.

Virtual College of Texas
vct.org

Texas Association of Community Colleges, Virtual College of Texas works with community colleges to make courses that are not available locally available to students who need these classes.

Links to Disability Services at Texas Colleges and Universities

Following are links to the websites of many colleges and universities throughout Texas, as well as links to information about services for students with disabilities if available.

The office that provides advocacy and arranges for academic support and campus accessibility for students with disabilities is usually called *Disability Services*. Please note, many schools have campuses in more than one location which are not all listed here.

| COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY | LOCATION | WEBSITE | DISABILITY SERVICES |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Abilene Christian University | Abilene | acu.edu | acu.edu/academics/trio/alpha/programs/sds |
| Alamo Colleges | San Antonio | alamo.edu | alamo.edu/main.aspx?id=5942 |
| Alvin Community College | Alvin | alvincollege.edu | alvincollege.edu/DisabilityServices |
| Amarillo College | Amarillo | actx.edu | actx.edu/disability |
| Angelina College | Lufkin | angelina.edu | angelina.edu/special-student-support-services/disability-serv/ |
| Angelo State University | San Angelo | angelo.edu | angelo.edu/services/student_life/disability.php |
| Austin College | Sherman | austincollege.edu | austincollege.edu/campus-life/academic-skills-center/disability-services |
| Austin Community College | Austin | austincc.edu | austincc.edu/support-and-services/services-for-students/disability-services-and-assistive-technology |
| Baylor University | Waco | baylor.edu | baylor.edu/oala |
| Blinn College | Brenham | blinn.edu | blinn.edu/disability.htm |
| Brazosport College | Brazosport | brazosport.edu | brazosport.edu/counseling-testing/Pages/Disability-Services.aspx |
| Brookhaven College | Farmers Branch | brookhavencollege.edu | brookhavencollege.edu/studentsvcs/disability_services/Pages/default.aspx |
| Cedar Valley College | Lancaster | cedarvalleycollege.edu | cedarvalleycollege.edu/FutureStudents/StudentServices/DisabilityServices |
| Central Texas College | Killeen | ctcd.edu | ctcd.edu/locations/central-campus/student-support/student-success-persistence/disability-support-services/ |
| Coastal Bend College | Alice, Beeville, Kingsville, Pleasanton | coastalbend.edu | coastalbend.edu/specialneeds |

| COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY | LOCATION | WEBSITE | DISABILITY SERVICES |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| College of the Mainland | Texas City | com.edu | com.edu/counseling/disabilities.php |
| Collin College | Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano, Rockwall | collin.edu | collin.edu/studentresources/disabilityservices/ |
| Concordia University | Austin | concordia.edu | concordia.edu/page.cfm?page_ID=1568 |
| Dallas Baptist University | Dallas | dbu.edu | dbu.edu/studentlife/disabled_students.asp |
| Dallas County Community College District | Dallas | dcccd.edu | dcccd.edu/SS/OnCampus/DisSvs/ |
| Del Mar College | Corpus Christi | delmar.edu | delmar.edu/disability/ |
| Eastfield College | Mesquite | efc.dcccd.edu | efc.dcccd.edu/ssi/DSO/ |
| East Texas Baptist University | Marshall | etbu.edu | etbu.edu/academics/academic-success/students-disabilities-and-accommodations/ |
| El Paso Community College | El Paso | epcc.edu | epcc.edu/CSD |
| Frank Phillips College | Borger | fpctx.edu | fpctx.edu/Students/EE_Home.htm |
| Galveston College | Galveston | gc.edu | gc.edu/gc/Special_Needs_Services1.asp |
| Grayson County College | Denison | grayson.edu | grayson.edu/current-students/students-wdisabilities.aspx |
| Hardin-Simmons University | Abilene | hsutx.edu | hsutx.edu/offices/disabilities |
| Hill College | Hillsboro | hillcollege.edu | hillcollege.edu/students/counsel/?dept=4 |
| Houston Baptist University | Houston | hbu.edu | hbu.edu/Choosing-HBU/Academics/Resources/Academic-Accommodations |
| Houston Community College System | Houston | hccs.edu | hccs.edu/district/students/disability-services/ |
| Howard College - Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf | Big Spring | howardcollege.edu/swcid/ | catalog.howardcollege.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=102#ADA_Accommodations |
| Howard Payne University | Brownwood | hputx.edu | hputx.edu/academics/the-collegium/learning-assistance-services |
| Huston-Tillotson University | Austin | htu.edu | htu.edu/students/services/disability-services |
| Kilgore College | Kilgore | kilgore.edu | kilgore.edu/future-students/student-services/instructional-student-support-disability-services |
| Lamar State College Orange | Orange | lsco.edu | lsco.edu/advising/disability.asp |
| Lamar State College Port Arthur | Port Arthur | lamarpa.edu | lamarpa.edu/dept/sp |
| Lamar University | Beaumont | lamar.edu | dept.lamar.edu/sfswd/ |

| COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY | LOCATION | WEBSITE | DISABILITY SERVICES |
|--|---|--|--|
| Laredo Community College | Laredo | laredo.edu | laredo.edu/cms/LCC/Student_Life/Student_Handbook/College_Services/Special_Services_Center |
| Lee College | Baytown | lee.edu | lee.edu/handbook-for-students-with-disabilities/ |
| Lone Star College System | Conroe, Cypress, Houston, Kingwood, Tomball | lonestar.edu | lonestar.edu/disability-services.htm |
| McLennan Community College | Waco | mclennan.edu | mclennan.edu/academic-advising/disability |
| Midland College | Midland | midland.edu | midland.edu/students/student_services/career/disabilities.php |
| Midwestern State University | Wichita Falls | mwsu.edu | mwsu.edu/student-life/disability/ |
| Mountain View College | Dallas | mvc.dcccd.edu | mvc.dcccd.edu/studservices/studsuccess/disabilityservices |
| Navarro College | Corsicana | navarrocollege.edu | navarrocollege.edu/student-services/disability-services |
| North Central Texas College | Gainesville | nctc.edu | nctc.edu/StudentServices/SupportServices/Disabilityservices.aspx |
| North Lake College | Irving | northlakecollege.edu | northlakecollege.edu/resources/disability.html |
| Northeast Texas Community College | Mount Pleasant | ntcc.edu | ntcc.edu/index.php?module=Pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=111&pid=1 |
| Odessa College | Odessa | odessa.edu | odessa.edu/dept/counseling/disabilities |
| Panola College | Carthage | panola.edu | panola.edu/student-success/disability-support-services |
| Paris Junior College | Paris | parisjc.edu | parisjc.edu/index.php/pjc2/main/disabilities |
| Prairie View A&M University | Prairie View | pvamu.edu | pvamu.edu/pages/4016.asp |
| Ranger College | Ranger | rangercollege.edu | rangercollege.edu/counseling.html |
| Rice University | Houston | rice.edu | dss.rice.edu |
| Rio Grande College (Sul Ross State University) | Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Uvalde | rgc.sulross.edu | sulross.edu/page/1384/srsu-accessibility-services |
| Sam Houston State University | Huntsville | shsu.edu | shsu.edu/dept/disability |
| San Antonio College | San Antonio | alamo.edu/sac | alamo.edu/main.aspx?id=12829 |
| San Jacinto College | Pasadena | sjcd.edu | sjcd.edu/student-services/educational-planning/educational-planning-and-advising/disability-assistance |
| Schreiner College | Kerrville | schreiner.edu | schreiner.edu/about/students-with-disabilities |
| South Plains College | Levelland | southplainscollege.edu | southplainscollege.edu/information-for-future-spc-students/special-services.php |
| South Texas College | McAllen | southtexascollege.edu | studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/advising/disability.html |

| COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY | LOCATION | WEBSITE | DISABILITY SERVICES |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Southern Methodist University | Dallas | smu.edu | smu.edu/alec/dass.asp |
| Southwestern University | Georgetown | southwestern.edu | southwestern.edu/offices/success/forstudents/services.php |
| Southwest Texas Junior College | Crystal City Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Hondo, Uvalde | swtjc.edu | swtjc.edu/pages/student-life/counseling-and-advising/disability-support-services |
| St. Edward's University | Austin | stedwards.edu | stedwards.edu/academics/undergraduate/support-services |
| St. Mary's University | San Antonio | stmarytx.edu | stmarytx.edu/disability |
| Stephen F. Austin State University | Nacogdoches | sfasu.edu | sfasu.edu/disabilityservices |
| Sul Ross State University | Alpine | sulross.edu | sulross.edu/page/1384/srsu-accessibility-services |
| Tarleton State University | Stephenville | tarleton.edu | tarleton.edu/sds/ |
| Tarrant County College | Fort Worth | tccd.edu | tccd.edu/Student_Services/Disability_Support.html |
| Temple College | Temple | tclive.templejc.edu/ | tclive.templejc.edu/SES/Accommodations/Student-Accommodations.aspx |
| Texarkana College | Texarkana | texarkanacollege.edu | texarkanacollege.edu/academics/academic-support |
| Texas A&M International University | Laredo | tamiu.edu | tamiu.edu/wellness/disability.shtml |
| Texas A&M University | College Station | tamu.edu | disability.tamu.edu |
| Texas A&M University at Galveston | Galveston | tamug.edu | tamug.edu/veterans/CounselingDisability.html |
| Texas A&M University-Central Texas | Killeen | ct.tamus.edu | ct.tamus.edu/departments/academicsupport/disability.php |
| Texas A&M University-Commerce | Commerce | tamuc.edu | tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/ |
| Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi | Corpus Christi | tamucc.edu | disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/ |
| Texas A&M University-Kingsville | Kingsville | tamuk.edu | tamuk.edu/compliance/ada.html |
| Texas A&M University-San Antonio | San Antonio | tamusa.tamus.edu | tamusa.tamus.edu/studentengagementsuccess/dss |
| Texas A&M University-Texarkana | Texarkana | tamut.edu | tamut.edu/Student-Support/Disability%20Services |

| COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY | LOCATION | WEBSITE | DISABILITY SERVICES |
|--|-------------|--------------------|---|
| Texas Christian University | Fort Worth | tcu.edu | acs.tcu.edu/disability_services.asp |
| Texas Southern University | Houston | tsu.edu | tsu.edu/Life_at_TSU/Student_Services/University_Counseling_Center/ods_about.php |
| Texas Southmost College | Brownsville | tsc.edu | tsc.edu/index.php/current-students/student-life/disability-services.html |
| Texas State Technical College Harlingen | Harlingen | harlingen.tstc.edu | tstc.edu/harlingenfooter/ada |
| Texas State Technical College Waco | Waco | waco.tstc.edu | waco.tstc.edu/accesslearning/disabilityservices |
| Texas State Technical College West Texas | Sweetwater | tstc.edu/westtexas | tstc.edu/westtexasstudents/ada |
| Texas State University | San Marcos | txstate.edu | ods.txstate.edu |
| Texas State University Round Rock Campus | Round Rock | rrc.txstate.edu | rrc.txstate.edu/prospective/ods.html |
| Texas Tech University | Lubbock | ttu.edu | ttuhsc.edu/student-services/ada |
| Texas Woman's University | Denton | twu.edu | twu.edu/dss |
| The University of Texas at Arlington | Arlington | uta.edu | uta.edu/disability/ |
| The University of Texas at Austin | Austin | utexas.edu | utexas.edu/disability/ |
| The University of Texas at Brownsville | Brownsville | utb.edu | utb.edu/sa/ability |
| The University of Texas at Dallas | Dallas | utdallas.edu | utdallas.edu/studentaccess/ |
| The University of Texas at El Paso | El Paso | utep.edu | sa.utep.edu/cass/ |
| The University of Texas at San Antonio | San Antonio | utsa.edu | utsa.edu/disability |
| The University of Texas at Tyler | Tyler | uttyler.edu | uttyler.edu/disabilityservices/ |
| The University of Texas of the Permian Basin | Odessa | utpb.edu | ss.utpb.edu/pass-office/students-with-disabilities/ |
| The University of Texas-Pan American | Edinburg | utpa.edu | utpa.edu/disability |
| Trinity University | San Antonio | trinity.edu | web.trinity.edu/x6245.xml |
| Trinity Valley Community College | Athens | tvcc.edu | tvcc.edu/CAPS/article.aspx?deptid=231&zoneid=628&articleid=1650 |
| Tyler Junior College | Tyler | tjc.edu | tjc.edu/Disabilities/ |
| University of Dallas | Dallas | udallas.edu | udallas.edu/offices/hr/adaaa/ |

| COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY | LOCATION | WEBSITE | DISABILITY SERVICES |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| University of Houston | Houston | uh.edu | uh.edu/csd |
| University of Houston Clear Lake | Clear Lake | prtl.uhcl.edu | prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/UAO |
| University of Houston Downtown | Houston | uhd.edu | uhd.edu/disability/ |
| University of Houston Victoria | Victoria | uhv.edu | uhv.edu/sas/adaStudent.aspx |
| University of Mary Hardin-Baylor | Belton | umhb.edu | cths.umhb.edu/disability |
| University of North Texas | Denton | unt.edu | unt.edu/oda |
| University of North Texas at Dallas | Dallas | dallas.unt.edu/ | dallas.unt.edu/student-life/disability-services |
| University of St. Thomas | Houston | stthom.edu | stthom.edu/Campus_Student_Life/Student_Services/Counseling_and_Disability_Services/Disability_Services.aqf |
| Vernon College | Vernon | vernoncollege.edu | vernoncollege.edu/SpecialServices.aspx |
| Victoria College | Victoria | victoriacollege.edu | victoriacollege.edu/disabilityservices |
| Wade College | Dallas | wadecollege.edu | wadecollege.edu/consumer-information/disability-services |
| Weatherford College | Weatherford | wc.edu | wc.edu/campus-administration/accommodationsdisabilities-office |
| West Texas A&M University | Canyon | wtamu.edu | wtamu.edu/student-support/disability-services.aspx |
| Western Texas College | Snyder | wtc.edu | wtc.edu/students/counselingadvising.html |
| Wharton County Junior College | Wharton | wcjc.cc.tx.us | wcjc.edu/About-Us/administration/offices/student-services/disability-services.aspx |

Texas Council *for* Developmental Disabilities



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tcdd.texas.gov

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