Off to College: What to Know Before They Go
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Minnesota’s Parent Training and Information Center
Home to PACER’s National Parent Center on Transition and Employment
Think College National Coordinating Center Project Advisor

Today’s Session Includes:
- Changes in Laws, Rights & Responsibilities
- Disability Disclosure & Academic Accommodations
- Changing Role of Families and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Wrap-up and Q&A

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Why is Postsecondary Education or Training Important?

- Prepares for employment
- Builds life skills and social skills
- College grads earn more money
- Most college students agree that it is worth it

Learn about changes in rights and responsibilities

The IEP does not transfer with your child to a postsecondary education program.

Laws governing disability services in the postsecondary setting are Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disability Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), two antidiscrimination laws.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

“No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reason of his or her disability,

- be excluded from the participation in,
- be denied the benefits of, or
- be subjected to discrimination

under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...”
Definition of Disability under Section 504 and ADA

Does the student:
- have a physical or mental impairment*
- which substantially limits
- one or more major life activities?

*or has a record of having an impairment or is regarded as having an impairment

Understanding the Law

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<tr>
<th>Focus of IDEA in High School</th>
<th>Focus of ADA and Section 504 in college</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Success/Progress</td>
<td>Access</td>
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Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html?exp=5

Disability Services Offices At The Post-Secondary Level

- Sometimes known as:
  - Disability Services
  - Disability Resources
  - Accessibility Services
  - Office for Students with Disabilities
- Helps identify and develop an appropriate post secondary accommodation plan
- Every post secondary setting is required to have an Office for Students with Disabilities

Example: http://www.normandale.edu/advising-and-services/students-with-disabilities
Steps to Get Connected with Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)

1. Apply to the college - FREE to apply
2. Submit official high school transcripts and score reports that were completed
   - Accepted score reports include ACT, SAT, or MCA reports
3. Attend an advising and registration session
   - Students are encouraged to do BOTH the online student orientation and the live A&R Webinar
4. Schedule an intake meeting with the OSD Office to determine reasonable post secondary accommodations

Helpful Things to Be Aware Of

- Students need to self disclose that they have a disability
- A student’s IEP/504 plan does not automatically transfer to college
- Accommodations are considered on an individual case by case basis
- During the intake we have an interactive discussion with the student to determine what accommodations they are eligible to receive
  - Note: Accommodations are not retroactive

Documentation is required to verify disability

- If student had an IEP, Normandale accepts:
  - Copy of their latest IEP and latest 3-year evaluation
- If the student had a 504 plan, we accept:
  - The evaluation documentation that was used to develop the 504 plan

**Note: Every college sets their own documentation requirements.**
Post-secondary accommodations

• Cannot fundamentally alter the nature of the program or course content

• At no-cost to student

• “Personal services” are the responsibility of the individual student

Examples of Commonly Available Accommodations

• Testing accommodations
  (E.g. Extra test time and quiet setting)
• Student notetaker or audio recording of lectures
• Audio or e-textbooks
• Adjustable tables or chairs
• Sign language interpreting
• Orientation to assistive technology and provision to it at the physical campus
• Priority Registration
• Organization/Time Management (OTM) Meetings with OSD staff member*

Examples of Accommodations and Supports Not Provided at Normandale CC

• Modified test/homework
  • Have to do the same work/test as classmates
• Personal tutoring
• Assistance with homework
• Individually prescribed devices
  (Ex: personal laptops)
• Readers for personal use or study
• Transportation
• Special college classes
• Attendants/Paraprofessional
  • “Case manager”
• Extra time on assignments *
Assistive Technology

• College students sometimes prefer to “self-accommodate” using technology
• Examples of assistive technology:
  * Text to speech programs *Audio/E-textbooks * audio recording devices *speech to text programs *low vision technology
• Explore technology early and often in high school to find what works best

PACER’s Simon Technology Center: Consultations, webinars and lending library
The Path to Independence: Mobile Apps to Support Transition-Age Youth

Suggestions to Aid in Student Success

• Sign up for classes early to get the best selection and availability
• Take a credit/workload that will be manageable - It’s okay to start off with a part-time credit load
• Consider the format of the class setting
  * Example: Online Synchronous vs Online Asynchronous
• Utilize campus resources like the Tutoring Center and OTM Meetings

Tutoring and Non-Academic Support

The Office for Students with Disabilities does not provide assistance with homework, or additional tutoring support.

Consider how you as the family will help support your young adult in college.

Take advantage of campus supports for all students, such as:
  – Tutoring Center
  – Advising and Counseling
  – TRIO Support Services
  – Fitness Centers
  – Student Life Clubs and Organizations
  – Student Resource Center
“In college, you are the boss of you.”

Students need to be “otherwise qualified”
- Able to attend class and complete work
- Able to maintain regular behavior standards
- Able to advocate for self with minimal assistance

What can I do if I believe the school is discriminating against me?
- Discuss the concern with the disability office. Have an interactive discussion with them to try and determine an appropriate post-secondary resolution
- Follow the college’s appeal or grievance process
- File a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

The Changing Role of Families

“... help students successfully make the transition from a secondary school system in which parents and school staff have typically advocated on their behalf to a post-secondary system in which they will be expected to advocate for themselves.” OCR, 2007

Parenting Postsecondary Students with Disabilities
Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA)

- “Ownership” of educational data switches from the parent to the student once a student turns 18 or enrolls in college
- Permission needs to be granted by the student and even with a release we can typically only share general information over the phone or to a non-school e-mail

Communicating with Your Student’s College under FERPA

What Parents Can Do Now

✓ Hold and communicate high expectations with your student.
✓ Understand and take an active and supporting role in the IEP or 504 process.
✓ Make sure academic skills, self-advocacy skills, and accommodations are addressed and that your student is actively developing self-advocacy skills.
✓ Explore post-secondary options, and proactively learn and plan for those key changes in the post-secondary setting.

Helpful Normandale OSD Resources

- The OSD website is loaded with resources regarding how to best prepare for the transition to college
  http://www.normandale.edu/osdresources
- The OSD Office offers guided tours for prospective students with disabilities (Currently completed virtually)
  Typically an hour long for individual tours and an hour and a half long for group tours.
  Tour of campus is provided. Then proactively discuss the transition to college and the differences between high school and college
  https://www.normandale.edu/advising-and-services/students-with-disabilities/osd-college-visits
Questions?

Normandale Community College
Main OSD Office Scheduling Appointments
952-358-8025
osd@normandale.edu

Kayla Allen
Accessibility Specialist
952-358-9409
kayla.allen@normandale.edu

Helpful Note: Normandale is open during the Summer, and we do complete intakes year-round.

www.pacer.org/transition

dleuchovius@pacer.org

www.facebook.com/npcte

Questions?

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