

Checklist for Assessing Colleges for Accessibility

When deciding which college is right for you, make sure you ask about the college's disability services. It is important that you obtain as much information as possible about services for students with disabilities and services that are relevant to your particular disability before choosing a college or, if you have already chosen a school, before beginning classes.

You want to be sure you have done all that you can to make your educational or job training experience satisfying, rewarding and productive. The list below is some sample questions you may want to consider asking when you visit different colleges.

- ✓ What services are typically available? (e.g., notetakers, books on tape, extra time etc)
- ✓ What is the name of the Director and staff persons connected to providing services?
- ✓ Where is the Disability Services office located and what are its hours of operation?
- ✓ Is there a document available that describes the Disability Services office and the services available?
- ✓ Who is available to help locate services on and/or off campus?
- ✓ Do other students who have a disability like mine attend here? Is there someone with a disability like mine (or another disability) who would be willing to talk to me about their experience here at ____ so I can learn from their experience?
- ✓ What arrangements do other students make in situations similar to mine?
- ✓ Is there a representative from Vocational Rehabilitation on campus? When is s/he on campus? Where is his/her office?
- ✓ Are there local organizations or support groups for providing services to individuals with disabilities like mine? What services can I obtain through them?
- ✓ How many students with disabilities attend ____ through graduation?
- ✓ What kind of record does the program I'm interested in have regarding providing accommodations?
- ✓ How much advanced notice is typically needed to provide a requested accommodation (e.g., taping textbooks, locating/providing interpreters, notetakers readers etc.)
- ✓ If an accommodation request is denied, what is the process to be followed to contest the decision?