Transitioning to Higher Education with a Disability

This handout focuses on disability-related websites. For a more general resource on college and financial aid, see the "Transition to College" FRC handout.

First Steps

1. High School Counselor – Following an assessment with the student, the counselor is often able to assist with determining needs and make suggestions for future education, including scholarship possibilities.

2. TSRHC Social Worker – Meet with your social worker for transitioning tips. The Family Resource Center is also available for you.

3. Texas Workforce Solutions (Vocational Rehabilitation) - This Texas state agency can be an important partner in your transition process. As a part of the School Transition program, each high school has a designated TWS representative. Contact your guidance counselor to help you make this connection. You can also call your local Texas Workforce Solutions office. They will work with you through their vocational rehabilitation program to help you prepare for a job and become more independent.

4. College Office of Disability Services – Contact the Office of Disability Services at colleges of interest. Speak to a representative to identify the institution's services and support for students with disabilities.

Transitioning Websites

1. Navigate Life Texas
   https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/transition-to-adulthood

   Designed for families of children with disabilities or special needs. Includes a section on transitioning to adulthood, helpful videos and information on education and career options.

2. Texas Workforce Solutions - Vocational Rehabilitation Services
   http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-services

   TWS offers transition planning for students in high school. Their vocational rehab program helps people with disabilities prepare for, find and keep jobs.

3. PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights), "Champions for Children with Disabilities"
   http://www.pacer.org

   The goal of PACER Center is to expand opportunities for and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

4. Tips on the college search process for those with a disability, an article from U.S. News & World Report
   http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-admissions-experts/2012/02/08/how-should-students-with-disabilities-find-the-right-college

5. Colleges and accommodations, an article from The New York Times
   http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/04/education/edlife/guide-to-accommodations-for-college-students-with-disabilities.html?_r=1

6. Advocacy – from U.S. Department of Education, the Office of Civil Rights – "Know Your Rights and Responsibilities"
   http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html

7. "Avoiding Scams" – from the U.S. Office of the Department of Education
   https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/scams

Disability-Related College Information

1. Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)
   http://www.ahead.org/students-parents

   An international, multicultural organization of professionals committed to full participation in higher education for persons with disabilities.

2. College Disability Support Offices (Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities)
   http://www.tcdd.texas.gov/resources/publications/texas-higher-education-guide-to-disability-services/

   List includes links to websites of more than 100 Texas college disability offices.

3. HEATH Resource Center of George Washington University
   http://www.heath.gwu.edu

   A national clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities. HEATH has information about educational support services, policies, procedures, adaptations and opportunities at colleges across the country.

4. Higher Education Resource Guide for People with Disabilities
   (Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities)
   http://www.tcdd.texas.gov/resources/publications/

   Texas college disability service information, educational alternatives, college planning for specific disabilities and much more. The *Resource Guide* is an excellent tool and is also available in Spanish:
   http://www.tcdd.texas.gov/resources/publications

5. Section 504 & Postsecondary Education tips from the PACER Center
   http://www.pacer.org/publications/adaqa/504.asp

   ADA(American with Disabilities Act) Question & Answer on Section 504 & Postsecondary Education.

6. Think College! College Options for People with Intellectual Disabilities
   www.ThinkCollege.net

   Transition programs including degree and non-degree opportunities across the country.

7. Wrightslaw: Help for College Students with Disabilities
   http://www.wrightslaw.com/flyers/college.504.pdf

   Includes links to websites with information on Section 504 and higher education. (note: pdf file)

Disability-Focused Financial Aid/Scholarship Information

1. Apply for the Legacy Scholarship if you have been a patient of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children! Visit this link for guidelines and application information:
   http://www.tsrhc.org/legacy-scholarship-program

2. Be sure to contact your future institution's Office of Financial Aid for specific scholarships, aid or student work-study information unique to that campus.

3. AAAS Entry Point
   www.entrypoint.org

   Internships for students with disabilities majoring in science, engineering, mathematics, computer science or business. Competitive application process for these national, paid positions through the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

4. Affordable Colleges Online – Scholarships for Students with Disabilities.
   http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/affordable-colleges-for-students-with-disabilities/
   Look under their "Resources" tab for a variety of tips including a page on "College Resources for Students with Disabilities."

5. Exceptional Parent - Disability Associated Scholarships and Awards
   http://www.eparent.com/special-needs-resource-directory/disability-related-scholarships-awards/

6. Grants for Individuals: the Disabled
   http://staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/3disable.htm

   Although gathered by a library in Michigan, this list covers nationwide opportunities.

Disclaimer: This material is designed for informational purposes only. It should not be used in place of medical advice, instruction and/or treatment. If you have specific questions, please contact your doctor or appropriate health care professional.
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