Higher Education

2012 Resource Guide for

Students with Disabilities

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

txddc.state.tx.us

Higher Education Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities

Download this document from the Resources section of the TCDD website.

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Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
6201 East Oltorf, Suite 600 • Austin, Texas 78741-7509
(512) 437-5432 • (800) 262-0334
txddc.state.tx.us • tcdd@tcdd.state.tx.us

All website links current as of August 2012.

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Introduction

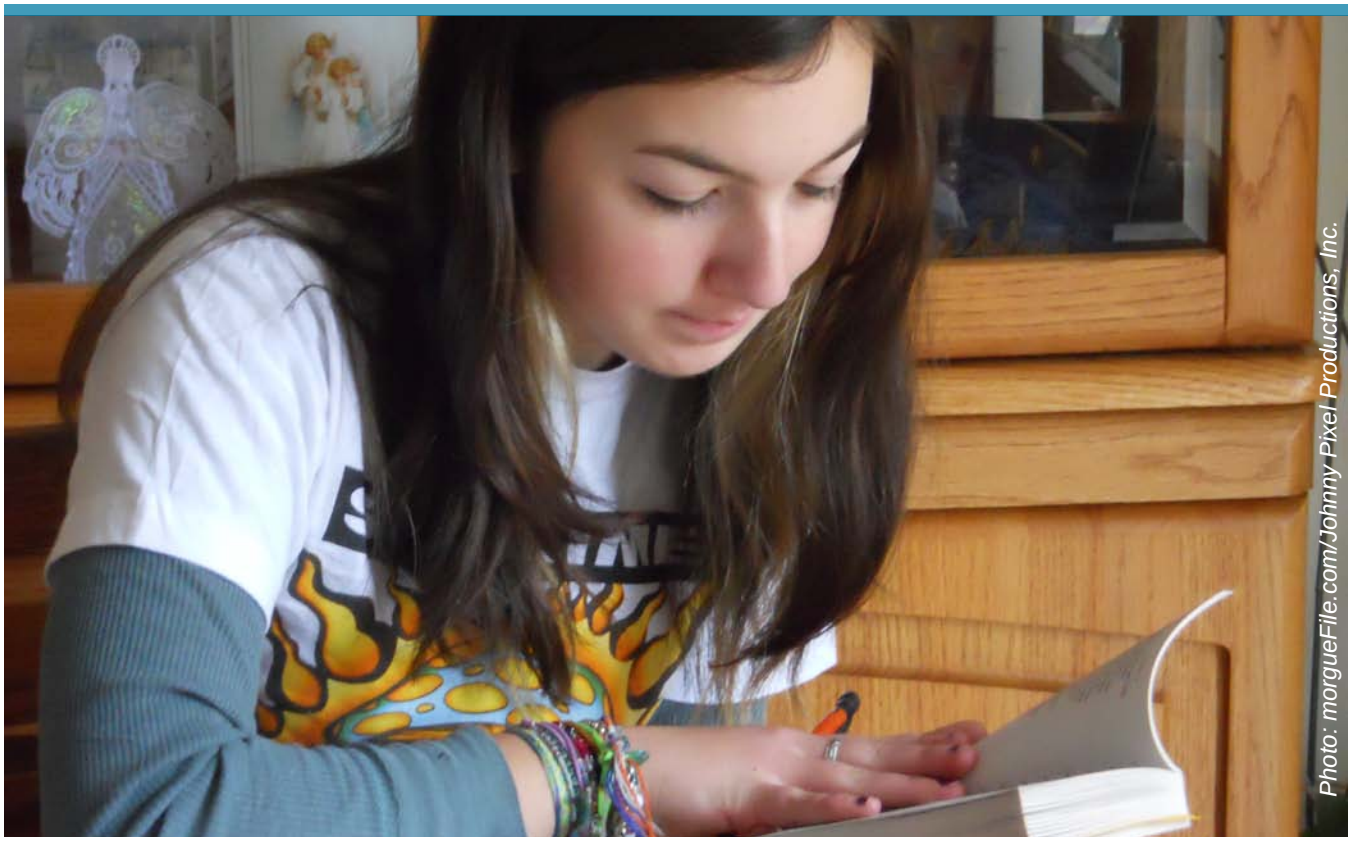


Photo: morgueFile.com/Johnny Pixel Productions, Inc.

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. In 2008, 10.8 percent of college undergraduates and 7.6 percent of graduate students were 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 place that meets your needs and goals. This guide is designed for students with disabilities, but 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.

There are hundreds of websites that provide information about higher education for individuals with disabilities. Each has a different approach and features different information. This guide includes some of these websites, and focuses mainly on attending college. The guide 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 to enter the school(s) you like. Please note that Texas has high school graduation plans that require different classes, and some graduation plans and class modifications may restrict admission to some schools.

By the time you finish high school, you need to be prepared to assume more responsibility and advocate for yourself. If you go to college, you will be responsible for registering for classes, managing your time effectively and arranging for any 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
txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/NextStepVideo.asp
Inspirational stories of five Texans with disabilities who attended colleges, universities or technical schools. There are also discussion sheets with tips that you can share with parents, teachers, counselors, and vocational and transition staff. Copies of the video and guide may be requested from the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (in English and Spanish).

Online Networking & Mentoring Community: DO-IT!
lifeafterieps.com/online-networking-and-mentoring-community-do-it
A free and secure monitored online community that connects high school students with disabilities to college students and adult mentors.

Preparing for College
ncld.org/college-aamp-work/post-high-school-options/transitioning-to-college/preparing-for-college
Provides information to help students understand the demands of college and academic preparation, explore college environments and obtain supports and services.

What About College? Resources on Specific Disabilities
nichcy.org/schoolage/transitionadult/education#specific
Links to college guides and resources.

Resources for Parents

Graduation Programs: What is the best graduation plan for your child?
texasprojectfirst.org/GraduationPrograms.html
Texas public high school graduation requirements, planning for high school and how accommodations and modifications factor into the graduation plan.

Extracurricular Activities and Volunteering

While some vocational and trade schools require only a high school degree 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. Participating in extracurricular activities like clubs, sports, volunteer work and community service can be a big part of this. Keeping a list of hobbies, religious activities, training and camps attended, skills learned while in high school, and any awards received or accomplishments — and when they happened (start and end dates plus the number of hours involved) will make it easier to complete applications for higher education, scholarships and financial aid.

Photo courtesy TEA

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
How to help students select extracurricular activities.

Employment and Career Goals: What You Want to Do Affects School Options

Your interests, abilities and goals will affect what kinds of jobs you will like and what type of school you should attend. If you don't know what type of work you want to do, you might want to take vocational interest and aptitude tests to get some ideas. You can also talk with your family, friends, teachers and counselors. Once you have an idea on the kind of job you want, consider what type of training and school will prepare you for it and will work best for you.

Resources for Students

Access Careers: Precollege Students
washington.edu/doit/Careers/precollege_stu.html
Work-based learning to help high school students explore career interests and develop job skills.

Occupational Outlook Handbook
bls.gov/oco/home.htm
Information on hundreds of occupations includes training and education needed, pay, job prospects, what workers do and working conditions.

School Transition Program
www.dars.state.tx.us/publications/pdf/01827.pdf
Contact numbers and services available through 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
www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/vr.shtml
Overview of the Vocation Rehabilitation Program at the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

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 in special education 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 attending:

- 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; and
- 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
www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/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
www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/community-college
Community college as an option for students with disabilities.

Knowing Your Options: What to Do and Where to Go
www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/awareness-of-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
americorps.gov/for_individuals/overview/
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: stock.xchng/omar franco

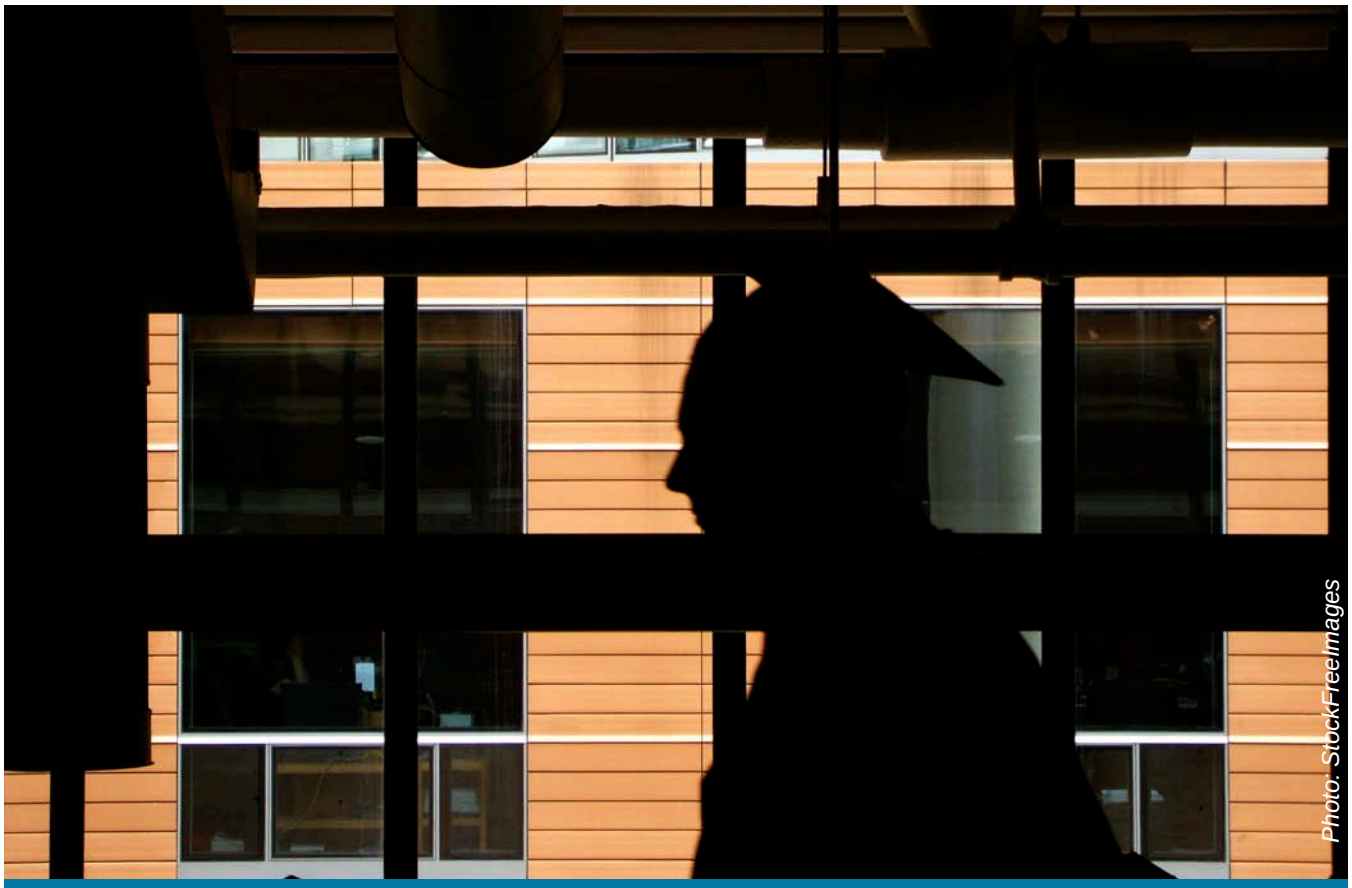


Photo: StockFreeImages

Specialized 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 you as a person with disabilities, as well as 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
ncld.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 of Their Adult Child to College, Career and Community
www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/parents-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

2012-2013 Counselors & Mentors Handbook on Federal Student Aid
fsa4counselors.ed.gov/clcf/attachments/CMH12-13.pdf
A guide for those advising students about financial aid for higher education. (4.2MB, 65 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
www.heath.gwu.edu/assets/33/toolkit.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
txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/NextStepVideo.asp
Information sheets — targeted to teachers, counselors, vocational and transition staff, students and parents — accompany an inspirational video of five Texans with disabilities who attended colleges, universities or technical schools.

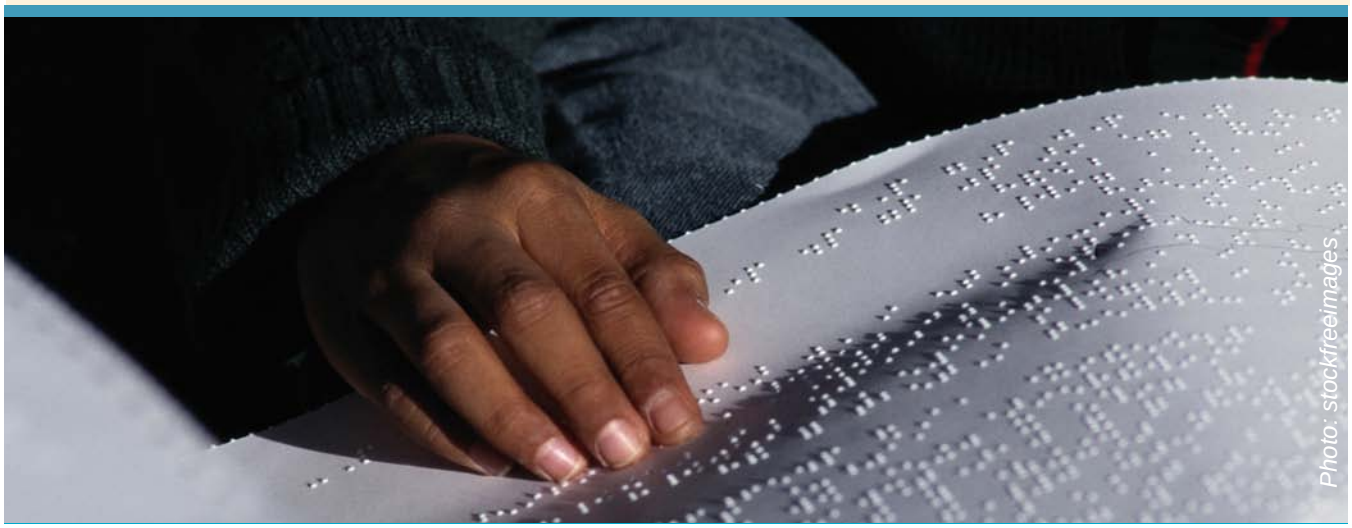
The Transition Coalition
transitioncoalition.org/transition/
Resources and professional development on transitioning to adult life for youth with disabilities.

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.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Selecting a School and 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; and if the people are welcoming and the school feels inclusive. Also think about alternative schools in case you do not get accepted into your first choice; consider applying to more than one school.

Many students start with community college and then transfer to a four-year college to save money, allow more time to decide on a career, or because they do not feel prepared yet for a four-year college. A lot of research can be done on the Internet, but nothing beats a campus visit. You can tour the school, meet with advisors, ask about financial aid and request an appointment with the 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
www.going-to-college.org/planning/applying.html
Overview of the college application process, including the essay and letters of recommendation.

Choosing a College
www.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 for All Texans: Which College is Right for You?
collegefortexans.com/index.cfm?objectid=6316E4DD-C14F-738B-0D78B8A1D99D9DC8
Questions to ask yourself to help shape your choice of a college or university.

Getting into College: What Students with Disabilities Want to Know
www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/college-application-process
How college is different from high school, preparing and planning for college, the admissions process, and how to decide what accommodations you will need and how to choose a college.

Photo: stock.xchange/fredjk

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 twice to improve their score. If you want accommodations on the test, you should submit required documentation at least two months before your 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 on these tests, too.

Resources for Students

CollegeBoard: Services for Students with Disabilities
collegeboard.com/ssd/student
How to apply for accommodations on 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 you must check with the individual school on its requirements. To make it a little easier, all public universities in Texas — as well as many community and private colleges — use the same basic application.

Most colleges also require you to complete at least one essay, and the topics change each year. Some topics may give you an opportunity to discuss your disability as it relates to your life experiences, personal attitudes and academic interests. Schools often want a couple of letters of recommendation, too. These are usually from teachers, but they can be from other adults or professionals who know you. You also need to submit a transcript from your high school (and any college) that shows the classes you took and your grades.

Resources for Students

ApplyTexas
www.applytexas.org
Online application for admission to any Texas public university, as well as to participating community and private colleges.

Applying for College
www.going-to-college.org/planning/applying.html
Overview of the college application process, including the essay 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
Advice about letters of recommendation for scholarship applications includes how early should you ask, how to ask and what information to provide.

Working with High School, Transition and Vocational Staff

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

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

Please note that you may need recent disability testing and documentation to obtain accommodations in higher education, so you should check on this ahead of time to see if the documentation you have is what is required by the school you want to attend. Your high school or DARS might be able to help you get updated tests during your last year of special education services, but DARS can only help with testing if the agency needs it done to see if you qualify for their services.

Resources for Students

School Transition Program
www.dars.state.tx.us/publications/pdf/01827.pdf
Contact numbers and services available through the Division for Rehabilitation Services of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. (450KB, 2 pages)

The Vocational Rehabilitation System in Texas
www.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
www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/vr.shtml
Overview of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program at the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, which helps people with disabilities prepare for, find or keep employment.

Resources for Parents

Texas Project First: Transition and the IEP
texasprojectfirst.org/TransitionIEP.html
What parents need to know about transition services. Includes 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.

Application deadlines vary, and some schools bundle many financial aid programs into one application to make it easier. You can also check on scholarships for students with disabilities and assistance with disability-related expenses, as well as any 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 is $16,930 (in 2012-2013).

Resources for Students

College for All Texans: College Costs
collegefortexans.com/index.cfm?objectid=63188B97-0C47-0020-6DBBBD96A7DFB83
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.

College for All Texans: Paying for College
collegefortexans.com/index.cfm?ObjectID=63191384-AA4B-80EB-1DE27FED58BF444D
Options for paying tuition and fees, types of financial aid, how to apply for financial aid, savings plans, and how to avoid scholarship scams.

2011-12 Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar, The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation
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 for aid, how to 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 have deadlines listed.

Show Me the Money! Options for Paying for College
www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/financial-aid
Overview of financial aid available to students with disabilities, including available federal grant programs, types of student loans, and disability-related expenses and resources.

Once You Are Accepted

Higher education is much different than high school. There is a lot more freedom and a lot 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 colleges 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, meals, transportation and paying bills.
- Arrange for supports and develop back-up plans. Also submit documentation on your disability if you want accommodations or supports from the school.
- Compile health care documents and determine whom to contact and where to go in case of an emergency.
- Consider if you want to sign a release so the school can share information with your parents.

Resources for Students

A Nuts and Bolts Guide to College Success for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
resources.pepnet.org/files/406_2012_3_16_09_21_AM.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, but is also useful to other students. (5MB, 132 pages)

From Where I Sit
calstate.edu/accessibility/resources/videos.shtml
Video series of eight California State University students with disabilities who share their experiences in college classrooms. Includes teachers' viewpoints.

Going to College: Campus Life for Students with Disabilities
www.going-to-college.org/campuslife/
What to expect in college and what your professors will expect. Tips for how to get good grades and accommodations, and for using technology.

Navigating College Handbook on Self Advocacy
navigatingcollege.org/download.php
Written for students with autism by adults with autism, however, information is useful to other students. Includes advocacy, accommodations, independent living, health and safety, self-advocacy, and social issues. Includes links to other resources.

Navigating the Emotional Landscape of College
www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/emotional-supports
Common and potential emotional experiences related to college and the internal and external resources available for emotional support.

Working with Disability Services and Other Supports

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

If you want any disability accommodations, you must disclose your disability and provide required documentation about your disability. This is usually done through the disability services office at colleges before

classes start, and staff can tell you what is needed. Also ask if they have a special disability orientation, discuss what accommodations you will need, and find out what services and supports they 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 deliver accommodations letters to your teachers, discuss your support needs and advocate, if needed, to ensure accommodations are provided.

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

Talking with other students with disabilities can provide valuable tips, and you might want to see if you can find a mentor on campus. It also helps to get phone numbers and email addresses for other students in your classes for when you need something explained or clarified. If your disability affects your capacity to succeed in some classes, you may be able to work with the disability services office and convince the college to waive some classes that are not essential to your major and take other courses instead.

In addition to disability resources, you can use supports that are available for all students. Examples include 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 picking classes, creating a study schedule and planning.

Resources for Students

Academic and Co-Curricular Accommodations in Colleges and Universities
www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/accommodations
The role of college Disability Support Services programs, things to do prior to applying for and attending college, what types of accommodations are typically offered at colleges, and how universal design in learning is applied in the university environment.

Making the Move to Managing Your Own Personal Assistance Services (PAS): A Toolkit for Youth with Disabilities Transitioning to Adulthood
ncwd-youth.info/PAS-Toolkit
This guide is designed to help you strengthen skills essential for managing your own PAS: effective communication, time-management, working with others, and establishing professional relationships.

Photo courtesy TEA

Questions Regarding Disability Services
educationquest.org/11th-12th-grade-students/information-for-students-with-disabilities/swd-questions-to-ask
Questions to ask the college disability services coordinator to help determine services and accommodations that may be available. Also includes questions the disability services coordinator may ask you.

The Why, When, What and How of Disclosure in an Academic Setting, After High School
dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/wwwh.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

While there are many resources to help you succeed in higher education, you have to seek them out, ask for help and stand up for yourself, your goals and your rights. No one will be checking to see how you are doing, and you are responsible for all aspects of higher education — from selecting classes that meet your degree plan to paying bills, obtaining supports, attending classes, completing school 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, new ideas and new responsibilities.

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

This 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/tentraps.html
Tips to help you achieve academic success by learning how to avoid common study traps.

Self-advocacy — Durham College Centre for Students with Disabilities
www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wPxq-NOZjg
In this video about self-advocacy, students emphasize the importance and benefits of working with campus disability services.

Study Skills Guide
csbsju.edu/academicadvising/helplist.htm
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. How to create your own study skills profile.

Tips for Students with Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorders and Related Disabilities
newschool.edu/studentservices/disability/subpage.aspx?id=32578
Tips on how to talk with your instructors 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.

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, 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. If this works, it gives you time to show that you can handle the workload and earn good grades.
- Consider volunteering or apply for work in a position that relates to your desired career.
- Consider if there are 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 available if you don't get accepted to the college of your choice include nontraditional admission, community colleges or taking a year off.

Photo: stock.xchange/Oscalito

Texas Schools, Colleges and Universities

Texas has about 38 public universities, 77 community colleges and 39 private universities, as well as five technical colleges and other types of schools. More than 1,468,000 individuals were enrolled in the state's colleges and universities in the fall of 2011. There are also numerous technical, trade, vocational and online schools that offer students with disabilities many options to continue their education after high school.

Texas Colleges and Universities

College for All Texans: Texas Institutions of Higher Education
collegefortexans.com/cfbin/inst.cfm
Links to Texas public and private college websites, organized by type of school, location and personal interests (in English and Spanish).

2011-12 Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar, The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation
everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars/
List of Texas colleges and universities, admission requirements, expenses for a school year, financial aid data and scholarship deadlines.

Vocational, Trade and Career Schools

2012-2013 Career Colleges & Schools of Texas
ccst.org/uploads/files/2012_CCST_Directory.pdf
Directory of CCST member schools. CCST is the state association for private, post-secondary institutions that prepare people for jobs. (2MB, 156 pages)

Texas Vocational Schools
texas-vocational-schools.com
Searchable database of private vocational schools that offer healthcare, business, legal, arts, IT 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 Degree
texasindustryprofiles.com/apps/sti/by_degree.asp
Find a school by the type of degree and program. Includes short-term workforce, technical certificate and advanced technical certificate programs.

Photo: stock.xchange/Kurhan

Trade Schools in Texas
abouttradeschools.com/unitedstates/texas
Texas trade schools for students who would like to pursue a career in the technical fields of art, design, business, automotive, information technology, health care, culinary or education.

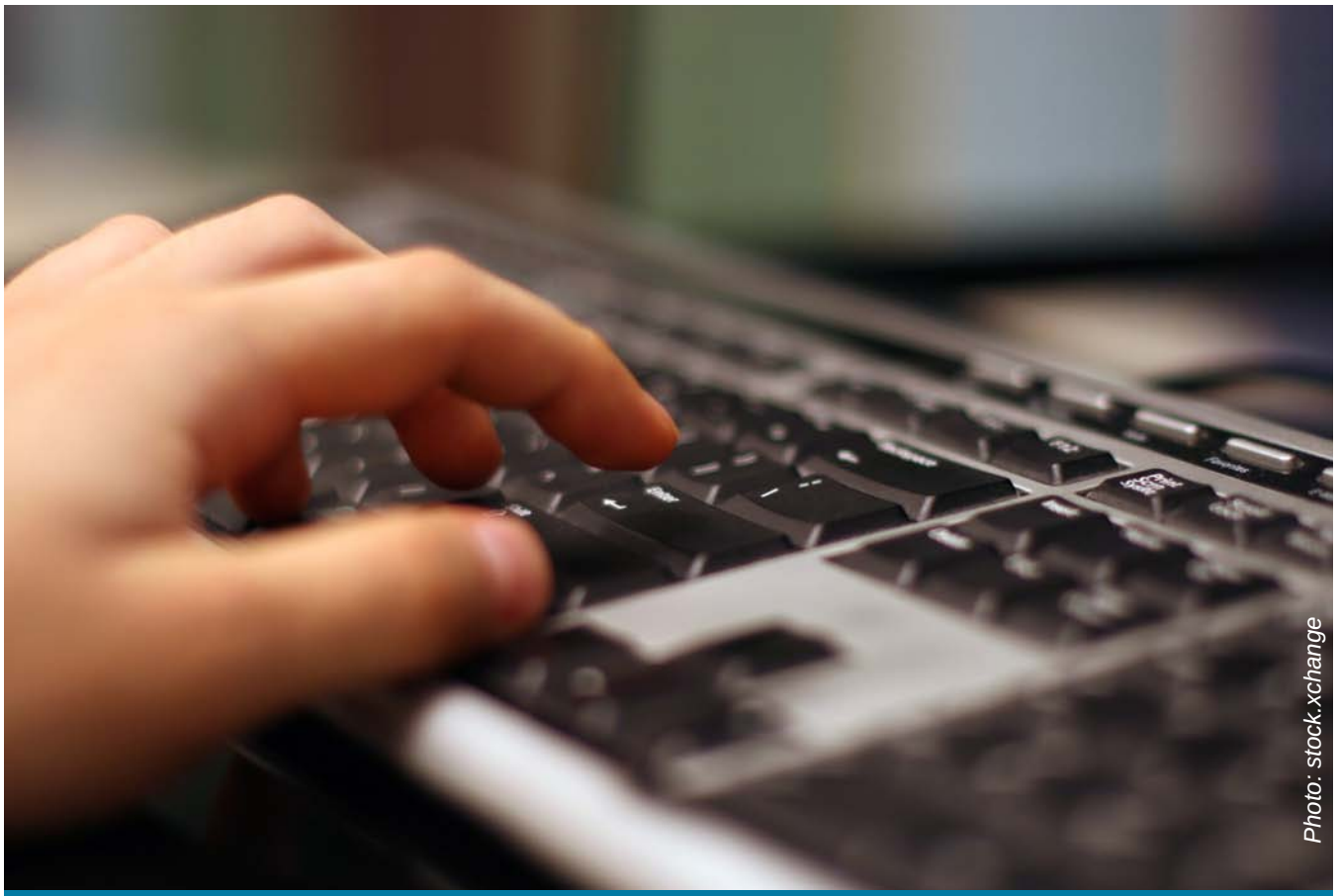
Photo: stock.xchange

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 colleges in the U.S. 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
A service of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, the Virtual College of Texas assists students in working with community colleges to get courses not available locally.

Links to Texas Colleges, Universities and Disability Services

Following are links to the main pages of many colleges and universities throughout Texas, as well as available links to information regarding services for students with disabilities. The office that provides advocacy and arranges for academic support and campus accessibility for students with disabilities is usually called Disability Services. Please note that 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	www.actx.edu	www.actx.edu/disability
Amberton University	Garland	amberton.edu	
Angelina College	Lufkin	angelina.edu	angelina.edu/ssss/disability_services.html
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/osd
Baylor University	Waco	baylor.edu	baylor.edu/oala
Blinn College	Brenham	blinn.edu	blinn.edu/disability.htm
Brazosport College	Brazosport	brazosport.edu	brazosport.edu/sites/CurrentStudents/StudentServices/SpecialNeeds
Brookhaven College	Farmers Branch	www.brookhavencollege.edu	www.brookhavencollege.edu/studentsvcs/special-services
Cedar Valley College	Lancaster	cedarvalleycollege.edu	cedarvalleycollege.edu/FutureStudents/StudentServices/DisabilityServices
Central Texas College	Killeen	ctcd.edu	ctcd.edu/gc/sss
Cisco Junior College	Cisco	www.cisco.edu	
Clarendon College	Clarendon	www.clarendoncollege.edu	
Coastal Bend College	Alice, Beeville, Kingsville, Pleasanton	www.coastalbend.edu	www.coastalbend.edu/counselors/

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services
College of the Mainland	Texas City	www.com.edu	www.com.edu/counseling/disabilities.php
Collin College	Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano, Rockwall	collin.edu	www.collin.edu/studentresources/disabilityservices/
Concordia University	Austin	concordia.edu	concordia.edu/page.cfm?page_ID=1568
Dallas Baptist University	Dallas	dbu.edu	www3.dbu.edu/studentlife/disabled_students.asp
Dallas County Community College District	Dallas	www.dcccd.edu	www.dcccd.edu/SS/OnCampus/DisSvs/
Del Mar College	Corpus Christi	delmar.edu	delmar.edu/disability/
Eastfield College	Mesquite	www.efc.dcccd.edu	www.efc.dcccd.edu/ssi/DSO/
East Texas Baptist University	Marshall	etbu.edu	etbu.edu/AcademicSuccess/DISACC
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	www.gc.edu	www.gc.edu/gc/Special_Needs_Services1.asp
Grayson County College	Denison	grayson.edu	grayson.edu/website/Students/students_disabilities.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	http://hbu.edu/Choosing-HBU/Academics/Resources/Academic-Accommodations
Houston Community College System	Houston	hccs.edu	hccs.edu/hccs/future-students/disability-services
Howard College	Big Spring, Lamesa, San Angelo	www.howardcollege.edu	
Howard College - Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf	Big Spring	www.howardcollege.edu/swcid/	
Howard Payne University	Brownwood	hputx.edu	
Huston-Tillotson University	Austin	htu.edu	htu.edu/students/services/disability-services
Jacksonville College	Jacksonville	jacksonville-college.edu	
Kilgore College	Kilgore	kilgore.edu	www.kilgore.edu/specialpopulations_howtoapply.asp

College or University	Location	Website	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/
Laredo Community College	Laredo	www.laredo.edu	www.laredo.edu/cms/LCC/Student_Life/Student_Handbook/College_Services/Special_Services_Center
Lee College	Baytown	www.lee.edu	www.lee.edu/handbook-for-students-with-disabilities/
Lon Morris University	Jacksonville	beabearcat.com	
Lone Star College System	Conroe, Cypress, Houston, Kingwood, Tomball	lonestar.edu	lonestar.edu/disability-services.htm
McLennan Community College	Waco	mclennan.edu	mclennan.edu/students/sss
Midland College	Midland	midland.edu	midland.edu/students/student_services/career/disabilities.php
Midwestern State University	Wichita Falls	mwsu.edu	students.mwsu.edu/disability/
Mountain View College	Dallas	www.mvc.dcccd.edu	www.mvc.dcccd.edu/studservices/studsuccess/disabilityservices
Navarro College	Corsicana	navarrocollege.edu	navarrocollege.edu/current.php?id=100
North Central Texas College	Gainesville	nctc.edu	nctc.edu/StudentServices/SupportServices/Disabilityservices.aspx
North Lake College	Irving	www.northlakecollege.edu	www.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
Our Lady of the Lake University	San Antonio	ollusa.edu	ollusa.edu/s/1190/ollu.aspx?sid=1190&gid=1&pgid=4619
Odessa College	Odessa	odessa.edu	odessa.edu/dept/counseling/disabilities.htm
Panola College	Carthage	panola.edu	panola.edu/15b/student-services/dss.html
Paris Junior College	Paris	www.parisjc.edu	www.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

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services
Rio Grande College (Sul Ross State University)	Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Uvalde	rgc.sulross.edu	
Sam Houston State University	Huntsville	shsu.edu	shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html
San Antonio College	San Antonio	alamo.edu/sac	alamo.edu/main.aspx?id=12829
San Jacinto College	Pasadena	www.sjcd.edu	www.sjcd.edu/current-students/student-support/disability-assistance
Schreiner College	Kerrville	www.schreiner.edu	www.schreiner.edu/academics/lss.html
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
Southern Methodist University	Dallas	smu.edu	smu.edu/alec/dass.asp
Southwestern University	Georgetown	southwestern.edu	southwestern.edu/offices/success
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	think.stedwards.edu/apss/studentdisabilityservices
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	www.sulross.edu	www.sulross.edu/pages/4517.asp
Tarleton State University	Stephenville	tarleton.edu	tarleton.edu/sds/
Tarrant County College	Fort Worth	www.tccd.edu	www.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/pages/140.asp
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	www.tamug.edu	www.tamug.edu/counsel/disabilities.htm

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services
Texas A&M University-Central Texas	Killeen	www.ct.tamus.edu	www.ct.tamus.edu/departments/academicsupport/disability.php
Texas A&M University-Commerce	Commerce	tamuc.edu	web.tamu-commerce.edu/studentLife/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/shw/drc/
Texas A&M University-San Antonio	San Antonio	www.tamusa.tamus.edu	www.tamusa.tamus.edu/studentservices.html
Texas A&M University-Texarkana	Texarkana	tamut.edu	tamut.edu/current-students/Disability Services
Texas Christian University	Fort Worth	tcu.edu	www.acs.tcu.edu/disability_services.asp
Texas Southern University	Houston	tsu.edu	
Texas Southmost College	Brownsville	utb.edu	utb.edu/sa/ability
Texas State Technical College Harlingen	Harlingen	harlingen.tstc.edu	harlingen.tstc.edu/supportservices/qualify.aspx#Disability
Texas State Technical College Marshall	Marshall	marshall.tstc.edu	www.marshall.tstc.edu/welcome/disabled.shtml
Texas State Technical College Waco	Waco	waco.tstc.edu	www.waco.tstc.edu/accesslearning/disabilityservices
Texas State Technical College West Texas	Sweetwater	www.tstc.edu/westtexas	
Texas State University	San Marcos	txstate.edu	ods.txstate.edu
Texas State University Round Rock Campus	Round Rock	rrc.txstate.edu	ods.txstate.edu
Texas Tech University	Lubbock	www.ttu.edu	www.ttuhsc.edu/studentservices/ada
Texas Woman's University	Denton	twu.edu	twu.edu/dss
The University of Texas at Arlington	Arlington	www.uta.edu	www.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

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services
The University of Texas at Dallas	Dallas	utdallas.edu	utdallas.edu/student/slife/hcsvc.html
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	www.tvcc.edu	www.tvcc.edu/guidance/studentswithdisabilities.aspx
Tyler Junior College	Tyler	www.tjc.edu	www.tjc.edu/Disabilities/
University of Dallas	Dallas	udallas.edu	udallas.edu/offices/hr/adaaa/
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	www.uhv.edu	www.uhv.edu/sas/adaStudent.aspx
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	Belton	umhb.edu	cths.umhb.edu/accommodation-student-assistance-program
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	www.stthom.edu/public/index.asp?page_ID=1710
Vernon College	Vernon	vernoncollege.edu	vernoncollege.edu/SpecialServices.aspx
Victoria College	Victoria	victoriacollege.edu	victoriacollege.edu/disabilitysupportservices
Wade College	Dallas	wadecollege.edu	
Weatherford College	Weatherford	wc.edu	wc.edu/new-students/admissions/disabilities-services
West Texas A&M University	Canyon	wtamu.edu	wtamu.edu/student-support/disability-services.aspx
Western Texas College	Snyder	wtc.edu	
Wharton County Junior College	Wharton	www.wcjc.cc.tx.us	www.wcjc.cc.tx.us/admin_offices_n/Student_Services/disability_services/disability.asp