

HIGHER EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE

for Students with Disabilities

Your Name



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

HIGHER EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE

for Students with Disabilities



6201 East Oltorf, Suite 600
Austin, Texas 78741-7509
512-437-5432
800-262-0334
tcdd@tcdd.texas.gov
tcdd.texas.gov



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HIGHER EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE

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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 19.4% of college undergraduates are considered individuals with disabilities (about 3,755,000 students nationwide). While schools are becoming better skilled at supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, you may need to do research

to find a school that meets your needs and goals. Designed for students with disabilities, this guide also includes information for parents, as well as teachers, counselors, and vocational and transition staff (referred to here as Educators).

While this guide focuses mainly on attending college, it also touches on other options, such as online training as well as 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 experience new things to see what you like, build skills, 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 the supports and accommodations you need.

Student Resources

Going to College: High School “To Do” Lists
bit.ly/1heg15

Tasks for each year of high school to prepare you for higher education.

Going to College: My Place
bit.ly/2heg15

Tips and activities to help you determine your learning style and strengths, explore interests, understand challenges, and set goals for your future.

Texas Transition and Employment Guide
bit.ly/3heg19

This guide has steps you and your parents can take to make sure you are able to make the right educational or work choices after high school. It also tells you where to get the services you may need after high school.

TCDD: The Next Step
bit.ly/3heg15

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.

Opening Doors to Postsecondary Education and Training: Planning for Life After High School
bit.ly/4heg19

Handbook to prepare students with disabilities for postsecondary education and training. Includes comparisons between high school and postsecondary education, timelines for planning, and tools to succeed in postsecondary education.

Parent Resources

Center for Parent Information and Resources:
College and Career Readiness
bit.ly/6heg15

Links to college guides and resources.

Navigate Life Texas: College and Alternatives for Students with Disabilities
bit.ly/7heg19

Resources and information to assist with every step of the transition period including education choices, supports and services, financial aid, and a video that discusses life after high school.

Texas Project FIRST: Transition and the Individualized Education Program (IEP)
bit.ly/45heg19

What parents need to know about the IEP including its development, associated services, and links to other resources.

College Prep: What You Need to Know
bit.ly/5heg15

Helping your child through the process of choosing a college, applying and then getting ready to go can seem like a daunting task. Like everything, it's easier if you break it down. This resource features information to help you get your freshman-to-be all set for their four-year adventure.

Texas Education Agency: Graduation Toolkit 2019
bit.ly/8heg19

A comprehensive toolkit for planning for high school, graduation, and beyond.

Extracurricular Activities and Volunteering

College admission committees will consider everything about you when they review your college application. They will take into consideration your high school grades and scores on college entrance exams as well as your life experiences, personal attitudes, and academic interests. Participating in extracurricular activities and volunteer opportunities can show your strengths and the challenges you've faced.

Typical extracurricular activities could be participating in clubs, sports, doing volunteer work, or some type of community service.

Extracurricular Activities

Hobbies:

Religious Activities:

Training:

Camps:

Skills:

Awards:

Keep a list of the following:

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

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.

Student Resource

Volunteer Match

bit.ly/8heg15

Volunteer opportunities by ZIP code or interest.

Educator Resource

College Board: The Extracurricular Edge

bit.ly/10heg19

Helping students select extracurricular activities.

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 the 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.

Student Resources

Mapping Your Future: Explore Careers

bit.ly/10heg15

What do you want to be? Once you know what career path you want to follow, how do you get there? Use these free tools to help you make a choice about which career to pursue.



Photo: iStock by Getty Images

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC): Career Exploration & Trends

bit.ly/12heg15

Explore career opportunities and planning, wages, occupations, and employment trends.

TWC: Vocational Rehabilitation – Adults

bit.ly/13heg19

Overview of the TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Types of Schools and Special Options

There are many types of schools to choose depending on your career and personal goals, budget, individual preferences, accommodations needed, and other factors. Additional options are available 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 districts.

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

Student Resources

College Board: Quick Guide – Your College Degree Options

bit.ly/16heg19

Guide to the different types of college degrees and what you need to do to earn them.

College or Training Programs: How to Decide

bit.ly/15heg19

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

National Youth Transitions Center: Awareness of Postsecondary Options

bit.ly/17heg19

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

National Youth Transitions Center: Community College

bit.ly/18heg19

Basic knowledge of considerations and options in choosing to begin postsecondary training and/or education in a community college setting.

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 to strengthen skills in weak subjects, or gain new experiences and increase your self-advocacy abilities.



Photo: iStock by Getty Images

Student Resources

Corporation for National and Community Service
bit.ly/18heg15

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides multiple volunteer opportunities, including AmeriCorps, which provides educational funds and small stipends for doing community service jobs.

National College Fairs: Taking a Gap Year

bit.ly/19heg15

Alternatives to going to college right after high school.



Photo: iStock by Getty Images

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Educators, parents, and other professionals have an important role in encouraging you and other students with disabilities to attend higher education institutions and 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 reach your goals. The following resources can be beneficial for students with disabilities, parents, and professionals.

Educator Resources

2018 - 2019 Counselors and Mentors Handbook on Federal Student Aid

bit.ly/22heg19

A guide for those advising students about financial aid for higher education.

Access College: Accommodations

bit.ly/24heg15

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. This resource includes information on how universal design can reduce the need for accommodations.

Helping Youth with Mental Health Needs Avoid Transition Cliffs: Lessons from Pioneering Transition Programs

bit.ly/24heg19

Discusses challenges faced by youth with mental health needs during their transitions to adulthood. Describes strategies used by youth service professionals to avoid age-related transition cliffs and prevent service interruptions.

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

bit.ly/25heg19

Answers questions guidance counselors

frequently ask to better assist high school students with disabilities in accomplishing transitions into postsecondary education and employment.

TCDD: The Next Step
bit.ly/3heg15

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
bit.ly/27heg15

Resources and professional development opportunities to assist with the transition to adult life for youth with disabilities.

Parent Resources

Think College: Healthy and Ready for College!
bit.ly/20heg19a

Explores healthcare challenges for youth with intellectual disabilities, including a skills checklist for managing care.

Parent Advocacy Brief — Transition to College: Strategic Planning to Ensure Success for Students with Learning Disabilities
bit.ly/21heg15

Help for parents to understand requirements and opportunities included in the law regarding youth with learning disabilities. Important planning documents are highlighted with a checklist that notes critical points in college planning.

National Youth Transitions Center: Parents' Guide to Transition
bit.ly/22heg15a2

Your role in transition planning; how to be involved in the transition; the differences between 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.

Educator, Parent and Student Resources
A Practical Guide for People with Disabilities Who Want to Go to College
bit.ly/23heg19

This guide provides an overview of the challenges and supports needed to help people with disabilities attend college, including finding the right school, locating supports at your school, managing your disability and your education, and using your new educational qualifications in the search for a better job.

College for All Texans
bit.ly/28heg15

Information and resources for planning for college; selecting a Texas university, college, junior college, or technical school; and applying for college and financial aid. Available in English and Spanish.

Texas Comptroller: Educational Opportunities and Investments
bit.ly/30heg15

Tools provided by the Texas Comptroller's office to help learn about the state's prepaid tuition and savings plans, scholarship opportunities, and more.

Know How To Go
bit.ly/31heg15

This resource is geared towards mentors of low-income students and those who are the first in their families to pursue higher education. The Mentors section (in English and Spanish) advises people who aren't familiar with the college process on how to help their students succeed.



Photo: iStock by Getty Images

Selecting a School: The Application Process

In choosing and applying to a school, it is important to look at the school's full environment. This includes learning opportunities and 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 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. 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.

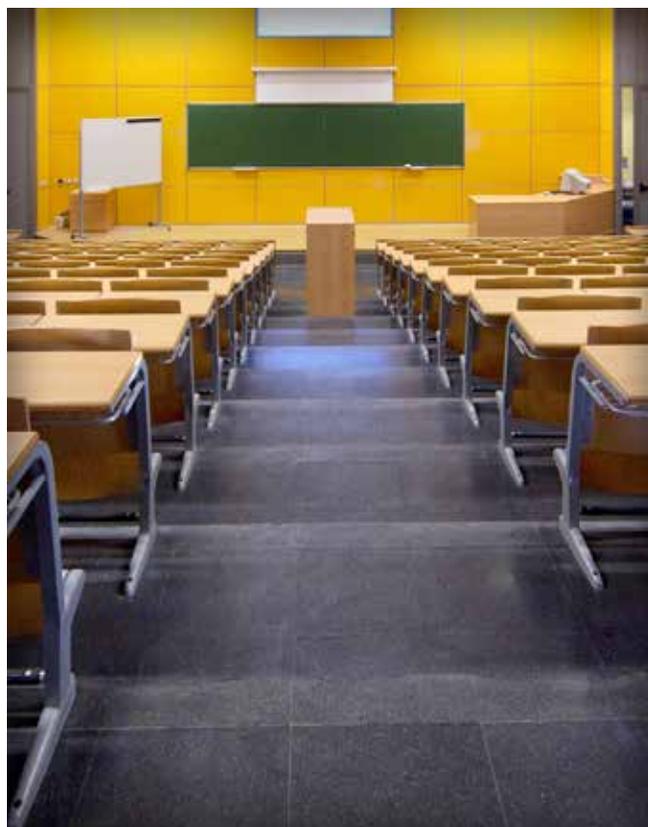


Photo: iStock by Getty Images

Student Resources

Going to College: Applying for College
bit.ly/32heg15

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

Going to College: Choosing a College
bit.ly/33heg15

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.

Compare College Texas
bit.ly/15heg34i

Select what's important and find the school that's right for you.

Getting into College: What Students with Disabilities Want to Know
bit.ly/35heg15

Information on 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.

Think College: College Search
bit.ly/36heg19

Directory that includes information on college programs for students with intellectual disabilities. You can search by program name, location, and other keywords.

Admissions and Placement Testing

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is an assessment of basic reading, writing, and math skills for high school graduates that is mandated by the Texas Legislature prior to enrolling in a public college or university. Most four-year colleges require that you 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 scores. If you want accommodations for the test, submit the required documentation at least two months before the test date. Community colleges may require additional tests to identify a student's

strengths or determine if extra training is needed in any areas. You can apply for accommodations for these tests, too.

Student Resources

College Board: Services for Students with Disabilities
bit.ly/36heg15

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

Number 2: Free SAT, ACT and GRE Test Preparation
bit.ly/38heg15

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

Overview: TSI
bit.ly/38heg19

Provides an overview and answers frequently asked questions about the TSI Assessment.

Partners Resource Network: Navigating Admissions to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities
bit.ly/37heg19

This resource provides tips for parents of college-bound students with learning disabilities to help with the college admissions process.

Texas Comptroller: Entrance Test Dates and Fees
bit.ly/39heg19

A list of registration and test dates for college entrance exams and the fees to take the tests.



Photo: iStock by Getty Images

College Applications, Essays and More

Each school has its own application process and deadlines. 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 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 will need to submit high school (and college) transcripts that show the classes you have taken and the grades you received.

Student Resources

Apply Texas
bit.ly/39heg15

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

College Board: Tips for Writing an Effective Application Essay
bit.ly/31heg19

Tips on how to write an admissions essay, including a video featuring advice from an admissions officer.

Going to College: Applying for College
bit.ly/32heg15

College application process overview, including essays and letters of recommendation.

Ask Early and Nicely for Letters of Recommendation
bit.ly/41heg15

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

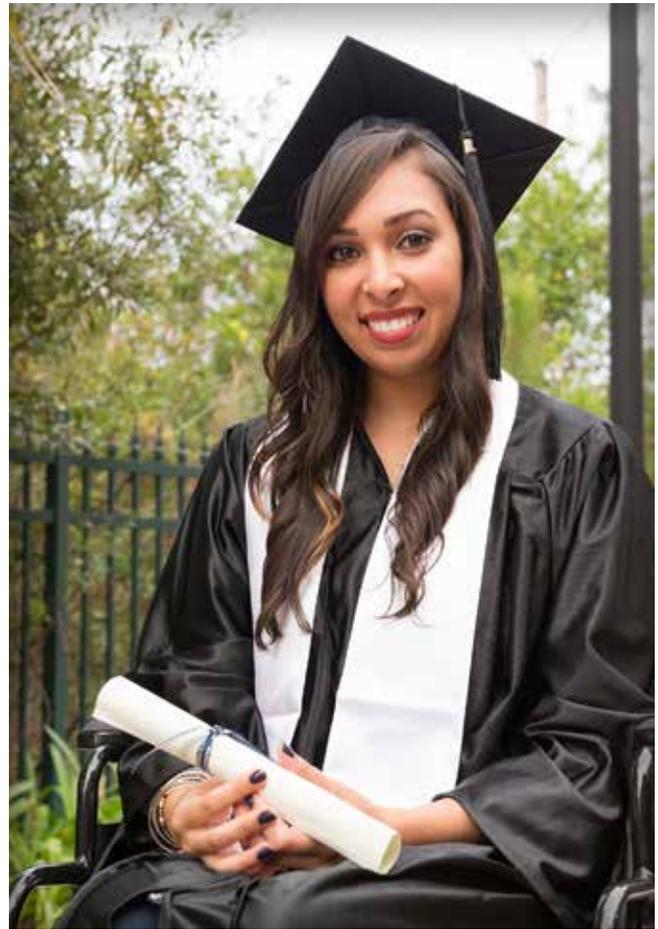


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Working with High School, Transition and Vocational Staff

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

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) can also help you plan for the transition to higher education and work. TWC staff can assist you with participating in Admission, Review, and Dismissal 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 TWC may be able to help you get updated tests during your last year of special education services. TWC can only help with testing if they need to test you to determine if you qualify for services.

Student Resources

TWC: Vocational Rehabilitation — Youth and Students

bit.ly/42heg19

Contact information and services available through TWC Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Disability Rights Texas: The Vocational Rehabilitation System in Texas

bit.ly/43heg19

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

Parent Resource

Texas Project FIRST: Transition and the Individualized Education Program (IEP)

bit.ly/45heg15a

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, 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 to apply. You can also check on scholarships for students with disabilities, assistance with disability-related expenses, and help from TWC.

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 2019–2020 is \$20,306.

Student Resources

Texas Comptroller: Compendium of Texas Colleges and Universities

bit.ly/48heg19

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

Let's Talk about the Money: Planning for College

bit.ly/49heg19

There are many sources of money to pay for college that people may know about. Financial advisors pull from personal and professional experience to share their expertise on how to pay for college.

Disability Scholarship Opportunities

bit.ly/51heg19

This resource features scholarships specifically for people with disabilities.

College for All Texans: College Costs

bit.ly/46heg15

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.

U.S. Department of Education: Federal Student Aid

bit.ly/49heg15

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

College for All Texans: Paying for College

bit.ly/47heg15

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

Federal Student Aid: Students with Intellectual Disabilities

bit.ly/47heg19

Information about financial aid and grants available to students with disabilities. Grants and scholarships available to students with disabilities — some with deadlines listed.

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 of the arrangements you need 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 your school has 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 healthcare 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.

Student Resources

PepNet: A Nuts and Bolts Guide to College Success for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
bit.ly/52heg19

Keys to college success, choosing classes, daily to-do lists, self-advocacy, transition to college, financial aid, accommodations, campus life, and more. Information is written for students who are deaf but may also be useful to other students.

California State University: From Where I Sit
bit.ly/53heg19

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

Going to College: Campus Life for Students with Disabilities
bit.ly/54heg15

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

Navigating College: Handbook on Self-Advocacy
bit.ly/55heg15

Written for students with autism by adults with autism who provide information 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 will need to give accommodation letters to your teachers, discuss your support needs, and advocate to ensure accommodations are provided to you.

Talk with all 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.

Student Resources

The 411 on Disability Disclosure: A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities

bit.ly/55heg19

Designed to help youth and adults who work with youth learn about disability disclosure and helping students make informed decisions about whether to disclose a disability.



Photo: iStock by Getty Images

National Youth Transitions Centers: Academic and Co-Curricular Accommodations in Colleges and Universities

bit.ly/56heg15i

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

bit.ly/57heg19

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

Education Quest: Questions Regarding Disability Services

bit.ly/58heg15

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

bit.ly/59heg15

Accommodations are provided through a school's disability support services 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 should research 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.

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, 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.

Student Resources

Avoiding Studying Traps

bit.ly/60heg16

Tips to avoid common study traps.

50 Tips to Adjust to College Life

bit.ly/61heg19

A lot changes when you go to college. Tips for students going off to college to make adjusting to campus life easier.

Study Skills Guide

bit.ly/62heg15

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

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

bit.ly/63heg15

Tips to talk with teachers about accommodations.

Parent Resources

National Parent Center on Transition and Employment: Building Self-Advocacy and Self-Care Management Skills

bit.ly/63heg19

This resource highlights what families can do at home to build self-care, self-management, and self-advocacy skills.

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.

Familiarize yourself with these laws to best understand your rights and responsibilities when it comes to higher education.

Student Resources

ADA Q&A: Section 504 & Postsecondary Education

bit.ly/64heg15

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

Department of Education: Disability Discrimination Resources

bit.ly/65heg15

Success stories, technical assistance materials, and links to other resources from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights.

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

bit.ly/66heg15

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. If not accepted, here are next steps you can make:

- Consider if other schools or types of training programs will meet your goals. Community colleges usually have open-door admissions policies for individuals who have graduated from high school or have a General Education Development (GED) transcript. 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 skills you want to improve.
- 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 applying for a job related to your career choice.
- Consider other career options you would like to explore.

Student Resources

National College Fairs: Plan B — What if I’m Not Accepted to College?

bit.ly/67heg19

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



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Texas Schools, Colleges and Universities

Texas has 37 public universities, 50 community college districts with multiple campuses, and 38 private universities, as well as six technical colleges, and other types of schools. More than 1.5 million individuals were enrolled in the state's colleges and universities in the fall of 2017.

Texas Colleges and Universities

College for All Texans: Texas Institutions of Higher Education

bit.ly/68heg15

Links to Texas public and private college websites, including admissions and financial aid pages.

Postsecondary Programs and Services for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

bit.ly/69heg19

Higher education institutions in Texas that provide programs and/or services for students with IDD, including which services are provided.

Vocational, Trade and Career Schools

Texas Workforce Commission: Texas Schools by Type of Degree

bit.ly/71heg19

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

bit.ly/72heg19

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



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ONLINE AND NATIONAL SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

College Board: College Search
bit.ly/74heg15

Search for colleges in Texas and beyond. You can also search for schools based on the support services offered for students with disabilities.

Virtual College of Texas
bit.ly/76heg15

Virtual College of Texas works with community colleges to make distance-learning courses available to students in different parts of the state.

Texas Colleges and Universities Disability Services Links

Below 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.

For the most up-to-date website links, visit bit.ly/15heg194.

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services Webpage
Abilene Christian University	Abilene	acu.edu	bit.ly/77heg15a
Alamo Colleges	San Antonio	alamo.edu	bit.ly/78heg15a
Alvin Community College	Alvin	alvincollege.edu	bit.ly/79heg15a
Amarillo College	Amarillo	actx.edu	bit.ly/80heg15
Angelina College	Lufkin	angelina.edu	bit.ly/81heg15a
Angelo State University	San Angelo	angelo.edu	bit.ly/82heg15a
Austin College	Sherman	austincollege.edu	bit.ly/83heg15a
Austin Community College	Austin	austincc.edu	bit.ly/84heg15
Baylor University	Waco	baylor.edu	bit.ly/85heg15a
Blinn College	Brenham	blinn.edu	bit.ly/86heg15a
Brazosport College	Brazosport	brazosport.edu	bit.ly/87heg15a
Brookhaven College	Farmers Branch	brookhavencollege.edu	bit.ly/88heg15a
Cedar Valley College	Lancaster	cedarvalleycollege.edu	bit.ly/89heg15a
Central Texas College	Killeen	ctcd.edu	bit.ly/90heg15

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services Webpage
Coastal Bend College	Multiple Locations	coastalbend.edu	bit.ly/91heg15
College of the Mainland	Texas City	com.edu	bit.ly/92heg15
Collin College	Austin	collin.edu	bit.ly/93heg15
Concordia University	Austin	concordia.edu	bit.ly/94heg15a
Dallas Baptist University	Dallas	dbu.edu	bit.ly/95heg15
Dallas County Community College District	Dallas	dccc.edu	bit.ly/96heg15
Del Mar College	Corpus Christi	delmar.edu	bit.ly/97heg15
East Texas Baptist University	Marshall	etbu.edu	bit.ly/99heg15
Eastfield College	Mesquite	eastfieldcollege.edu	bit.ly/96heg15b
El Paso Community College	El Paso	epcc.edu	bit.ly/100heg15i
Frank Phillips College	Borger	fpctx.edu	bit.ly/101heg15a
Galveston College	Galveston	gc.edu	bit.ly/102heg15a
Grayson County College	Denison	grayson.edu	bit.ly/103heg15a
Hardin-Simmons University	Abilene	hsutx.edu	bit.ly/104heg15
Hill College	Hillsboro	hillcollege.edu	bit.ly/105heg15a
Houston Baptist University	Houston	hbu.edu	bit.ly/15heg106a
Houston Community College System	Houston	hccs.edu	bit.ly/107heg15a
Howard College	Big Spring	howardcollege.edu	bit.ly/108heg15a
Howard Payne University	Brownwood	hputx.edu	bit.ly/109heg15i
Huston-Tillotson University	Austin	htu.edu	bit.ly/110heg15
Kilgore College	Kilgore	kilgore.edu	bit.ly/111heg15
Lamar State College Orange	Orange	lsco.edu	bit.ly/112heg15
Lamar State College Port Arthur	Port Arthur	lamarpa.edu	bit.ly/113heg15

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services Webpage
Lamar University	Beaumont	lamar.edu	bit.ly/114heg15
Laredo Community College	Laredo	laredo.edu	bit.ly/115heg15
Lee College	Baytown	lee.edu	bit.ly/116heg15a
Lone Star College System	Multiple Locations	lonestar.edu	bit.ly/117heg15
McLennan Community College	Waco	mclennan.edu	bit.ly/118heg15a
Midland College	Midland	midland.edu	bit.ly/119heg15a
Midwestern State University	Wichita Falls	msutexas.edu	bit.ly/120heg15a
Mountain View College	Dallas	mountainviewcollege.edu	bit.ly/121heg15i
Navarro College	Corsicana	navarrocollege.edu	bit.ly/122heg15
North Central Texas College	Gainesville	nctc.edu	bit.ly/123heg15i
North Lake College	Irving	northlakecollege.edu	bit.ly/124heg15i
Northeast Texas Community College	Mt. Pleasant	ntcc.edu	bit.ly/125heg15
Odessa College	Odessa	odessa.edu	bit.ly/127heg15e
Panola College	Carthage	panola.edu	bit.ly/128heg15
Paris Junior College	Paris	parisjc.edu	bit.ly/129heg15a
Prairie View A&M University	Prairie View	pvamu.edu	bit.ly/130heg15
Ranger College	Ranger	rangercollege.edu	bit.ly/131heg15a
Rice University	Houston	rice.edu	bit.ly/132heg15
Sam Houston State University	Huntsville	shsu.edu	bit.ly/134heg15
San Jacinto College	Pasadena	sanjac.edu	bit.ly/136heg15i
Schreiner College	Kerrville	schreiner.edu	bit.ly/137heg15
South Plains College	Levelland	southplainscollege.edu	bit.ly/136heg15a
South Texas College	McAllen	southtexascollege.edu	bit.ly/139heg15a

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services Webpage
Southern Methodist University	Dallas	smu.edu	bit.ly/15heg140
Southwest Texas Junior College	Multiple Locations	swtjc.edu	bit.ly/142heg15b
Southwestern University	Georgetown	southwestern.edu	bit.ly/142heg15i
St. Edward's University	Austin	stedwards.edu	bit.ly/15heg143
St. Mary's University	San Antonio	stmarytx.edu	bit.ly/15heg144a
Stephen F. Austin State University	Nacogdoches	sfasu.edu	bit.ly/145heg15
Sul Ross State University	Alpine	sulross.edu	bit.ly/146heg15
Tarleton State University	Stephenville	tarleton.edu	bit.ly/147heg15a
Tarrant County College	Fort Worth	tccd.edu	bit.ly/148heg15i
Temple College	Temple	templejc.edu	bit.ly/149heg15i
Texarkana College	Texarkana	texarkanacollege.edu	bit.ly/15heg150
Texas A&M International University	Laredo	tamiu.edu	bit.ly/151heg15i
Texas A&M University	College Station	tamu.edu	bit.ly/152heg15
Texas A&M University at Galveston	Galveston	tamug.edu	bit.ly/153heg15
Texas A&M University-Central Texas	Killeen	tamuct.edu	bit.ly/15heg154a
Texas A&M University-Commerce	Commerce	tamuc.edu	bit.ly/155heg15
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi	tamucc.edu	bit.ly/156heg15
Texas A&M University-Kingsville	Kingsville	tamuk.edu	bit.ly/157heg15
Texas A&M University-San Antonio	San Antonio	tamusa.edu	bit.ly/158heg15a
Texas A&M University-Texarkana	Texarkana	tamut.edu	bit.ly/159heg15
Texas Christian University	Fort Worth	tcu.edu	bit.ly/160heg15
Texas Southern University	Houston	tsu.edu	bit.ly/161heg15i
Texas Southmost College	Brownsville	tsc.edu	bit.ly/15heg161a

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services Webpage
Texas State Technical College	Waco	tstc.edu	bit.ly/162heg15
Texas State University	San Marcos, Round Rock	txstate.edu	bit.ly/163heg15
Texas Tech University	Lubbock	ttuhsc.edu	bit.ly/164heg15i
Texas Woman's University	Denton	twu.edu	bit.ly/15heg165i
The University of Texas at Arlington	Arlington	uta.edu	bit.ly/166heg15
The University of Texas at Austin	Austin	utexas.edu	bit.ly/15heg167a
The University of Texas at Dallas	Dallas	utdallas.edu	bit.ly/169heg15
The University of Texas at El Paso	El Paso	utep.edu	bit.ly/170heg15
The University of Texas at San Antonio	San Antonio	utsa.edu	bit.ly/171heg15
The University of Texas at Tyler	Tyler	uttyler.edu	bit.ly/172heg15
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin	Odessa	utpb.edu	bit.ly/15heg173a
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Edinburg	utrgv.edu	bit.ly/15heg174a
Trinity University	San Antonio	new.trinity.edu	bit.ly/15heg175a
Trinity Valley Community College	Athens	tvcc.edu	bit.ly/176heg1511a
Tyler Junior College	Tyler	tjc.edu	bit.ly/177heg15
University of Dallas	Dallas	udallas.edu	bit.ly/178heg15
University of Houston	Houston	uh.edu	bit.ly/179heg15
University of Houston Clear Lake	Clear Lake	uhcl.edu	bit.ly/180heg15a
University of Houston Downtown	Houston	uhd.edu	bit.ly/15heg181
University of Houston Victoria	Victoria	uhv.edu	bit.ly/182heg15a
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	Belton	umhb.edu	bit.ly/183heg15
University of North Texas	Denton	unt.edu	bit.ly/15heg184
University of North Texas at Dallas	Dallas	untdallas.edu	bit.ly/185heg15

College or University	Location	Website	Disability Services Webpage
University of St. Thomas	Houston	stthom.edu	bit.ly/186heg15
Vernon College	Vernon	vernoncollege.edu	bit.ly/15heg187
Victoria College	Victoria	victoriacollege.edu	bit.ly/188heg15
Wade College	Dallas	wadecollege.edu	bit.ly/15heg189
Weatherford College	Weatherford	wc.edu	bit.ly/190heg15
West Texas A&M University	Canyon	wtamu.edu	bit.ly/191heg15
Western Texas College	Snyder	wtc.edu	bit.ly/192heg15
Wharton County Junior College	Wharton	wcjc.edu	bit.ly/193heg15

NOTES



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