

College-Bound Students with Disabilities

Increasing numbers of students with disabilities are successfully pursuing postsecondary education in the U.S. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 10.9 percent of undergraduates in 2007 – 2008 reported having a disability, meaning one or more of the following conditions: a learning disability, impaired vision, impaired hearing, a total loss of hearing, a speech disability, an orthopedic problem, or a physical or mental health impairment.

Public elementary and secondary schools by law must provide a free appropriate education to every student with a disability. This includes any additional instruction, assistance, aids, or services the student needs to acquire such an education.

Colleges also cannot discriminate against students with disabilities, but are required only to offer appropriate academic adjustments to the students they admit to ensure that they are not discriminating against them. The college, unlike an elementary, middle, or high school, is not required to identify the disability or assess the student's needs. Any necessary adjustments for the student, such as accessible housing, recording devices, extended time for tests, or adaptive computer software, will be determined based on each student's individual requirements. This means that students with disabilities must speak up for themselves, request

needed adjustments as soon as possible, provide any needed documentation, and, in short, become their own advocates.

College-bound students may also need special accommodations while taking the SAT, Advanced Placement Tests, the ACT, or other standardized tests. Typical accommodations include Braille exams, large-print exams, extended time, extra breaks, use of a computer for essays, and special furniture. Students are encouraged to apply for accommodations early, as the process can take several weeks and most

students will need the assistance of their school. Information on the College Board's services for students with disabilities can be found at www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities. Information about ACT's service for students is available at www.actstudent.org/regist/disab.

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2013, <http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=60>; Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education, www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html; Transition of Students with Disabilities to Postsecondary Education: A Guide for High School Educators, www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transitionguide.html.

CORNER

NEWS

I'm First! Scholarship

The *I'm First!* Scholarship is a \$4,000 scholarship awarded by the Center for Student Opportunities (CSO) to up to 10 graduating high school seniors who will be the first in their family to go to college and are planning to attend a CSO College Partner institution. Over 140 colleges are CSO members, including 17 in New York State. To find participating colleges, visit www.imfirst.org/partners/college-partners/college-partners-list. Scholarship winners are not selected based on academic qualifications such as GPA, SAT/ACT scores or intended majors. Undocumented students are eligible and strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is May 22, 2015, and eligible students should apply at www.imfirst.org/scholarship.

U.S. Dept. of Education Resources

The U.S. Department of Education's website, www2.ed.gov/about/top-tasks.html, offers a variety of information and resources for students, families and teachers. Resources for students and families include links to the FAFSA application, scholarship search, information on loan and loan forgiveness programs, and tips on helping with homework. For teachers, there are links to a variety of teaching resources on topics related to history, math, STEM, world languages, etc. that teachers can draw from for class lessons and activities. Also available is an extensive list of educational data and research tools.

REMINDER – FSA Pin Replaced

Earlier this month, a new Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID, consisting of a user-selected user name and password, replaced the old FSA PIN on all websites for students and borrowers. Sites affected include FAFSA on the Web, NSLDS® Student Access, StudentLoans.gov, StudentAid.gov, and the TEACH Grant. This change will better protect the security of those using these sites, as they will no longer have to enter information such as names, Social Security numbers, and a birth date to access FSA's systems. For more information, visit www.financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/announcement-detail.jsp?id=fsa-id.

FAFSA College List Update

The 2015-16 Free Application for Federal Student Aid form includes new language to alert students that all the colleges they list on their FAFSA will be able to see the entire list of colleges that students included on their FAFSA. If students do not want this information sent to a particular college, they should not list that institution. For more information, go to www.nacacnet.org/research/PublicationsResources/bulletin/2015Bulletin/04-08-2015/Pages/FAFSA-College-List-Update.aspx.

Contents

College-Bound Students with Disabilities	1
News Corner	1
Resources for Students with Disabilities	2
Summer Tasks for High School Students.....	3
College-Bound Students and Social Media.....	3

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)

www.ahead.org

AHEAD is an organization for professionals working in colleges and universities who are involved in setting policies and providing services to students with disabilities.

College Resources for Students with Disabilities

www.bestcolleges.com/resources/disabled-students

This guide explains the legal rights of students with disabilities and includes links to sites and resources that can aid students with specific types of disabilities, such as autism, blindness, dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, and deafness. Sections cover procedures for getting academic adjustments, filing grievances, and deciding on a college.

HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center

<http://heath.gwu.edu>

The HEATH Resource Center, managed by the George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development, is a web-based clearinghouse with information on educational resources, support services, and opportunities for students, families, and educators. Its *Guidance and Career Counselors' Toolkit: Advising High School Students with Disabilities on Postsecondary Options* answers questions about college opportunities and offers advice for students and families planning for college. The 192-page publication has been vetted by the U.S. Department of Education and can be downloaded at <https://heath.gwu.edu/sites/heath.gwu.edu/files/downloads/Toolkit%202014.pdf>.

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation

www.acces.nysed.gov/vr

ACCESS-VR administers transition services to eligible students with disabilities who are leaving secondary education and entering adult vocational rehabilitation and related services to ensure that students achieve maximum success in their post-school activities. Some of these services include career counseling, independent living, and vocational and/or post-secondary school training.

Making the Move to Managing Your Own Personal Assistance Services (PAS): A Toolkit for Youth With Disabilities Transitioning to Adulthood

www.ncwd-youth.info/sites/default/files/pas-toolkit-052610-print-final.pdf

Published in 2010 and developed for the U.S. Department of Labor, this free and downloadable guide to using personal assistance services offers information and advice to young people with disabilities who want to live independently while working or attending college. Among the subjects covered are assessing one's needs, service dogs, hiring an assistant, handling awkward moments, and recognizing abusive situations. The guide also provides additional resources, references, and a glossary of terms.

National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)

www.nclid.org

The mission of this organization, founded in 1977, is to advocate for and support people with learning and attention disorders. Information about scholarships and awards offered by NCLD is available at www.nclid.org/scholarships-and-awards.

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

www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html

Produced by the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education and revised in 2011, this web page answers questions about the rights of college students with disabilities.

ADA Part-time TAP

Students with a documentable disability may be eligible for the ADA Part-time Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). ADA Part-time TAP allows time for students to complete additional semesters in their college program and allows more realistic satisfactory academic

progress guidelines for completion of their academic programs. Recipients must meet all TAP eligibility requirements. Colleges may set forth stricter requirements. For more information, please visit www.hesc.ny.gov/tap-coach.



Summer Tasks for High School Students

Summer Before 10th Grade

- Find out about summer enrichment activities on local college campuses (nycolleges.org/plan-college/outreach-enrichment).
- Visit the website of a local college and plan a summertime visit to its campus. Visit nycolleges.org to explore New York's 100+ independent colleges and universities.
- Explore an interest or possible career through a summer activity at a local community center, library, school, or college.
- Create a summer reading list, ask teachers and older students for recommendations, and read as much as possible.

Summer Before 11th Grade

- Research summer volunteer and enrichment opportunities.
- Visit college campuses near you and talk with college students you know about their college experiences.
- Continue to save money for college.
- Keep reading!

Summer Before 12th Grade

- Decide on summer jobs or activities.
- Visit colleges, talk to current college students, college graduates and mentors about college, and involve your family in the college search process.
- Compose a rough draft of your college essay and go over it with a trusted teacher or adult mentor.
- Develop a financial aid application plan, including a list of aid sources, requirements for each application, and a timetable.
- Research scholarships.
- Continue to read!

Summer Before College

- If you are on a college's waiting list and are still interested in attending, contact the college and let the admissions office know.
- Once you've decided on a college, be sure to follow the college's deadlines for submission of housing and board contracts, as well as fees for tuition, room, and board.



- Participate in summer orientation programs offered by the college you will be attending. Check on your residence hall assignment, roommate assignment, and course schedules.
- Arrange for required medical exams and health insurance coverage if you have not already done so.
- Keep reading and find out if your college has recommended or required reading for entering first-year students.

College-Bound Students and Social Media

By now most high school students have gotten the message that posting compromising or offensive content on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, or other social media can lead to trouble. Students planning to attend college are also aware that there is at least a chance that admissions personnel at colleges they hope to apply to might be checking out the social media pages of applicants. A report from Kaplan Test Prep in 2014 revealed that fewer college admissions officers are finding problematic posts on the social media pages of applicants. Although more admissions staff – 35 percent of those surveyed, a 9 percent increase since 2012 – are visiting the online pages of applicants, only 16 percent of college admission staffs discovered information that lessened a student's chances of admission, compared with 35 percent in 2012.

Students are being more cautious about what they post, using privacy controls, cleaning up their online profiles, or using sites and apps such as Instagram, Snapchat, and YikYak,

where posts can be temporary or anonymous and less likely to be found. But young people are also using social media constructively while researching colleges and applying to them.

Viewing and interacting with a college's Facebook page or its tweets can provide some insight into a college's culture; liking a college's Facebook posts or following its Twitter feed demonstrates an interest in a particular institution. If the college's website has a blog, students can read the posts and ask questions in the comments section.

Students can also communicate with individuals on campus – with students at the college, with a professor in a possible major, or an admissions counselor – through social media. Students acquire more information about the college while the institution sees students demonstrating a genuine interest in that college. Students can use their own social media pages to show who they are apart from the grades, awards, and extracurricular activities on their applications. A well-

produced video on YouTube featuring the student pursuing an interest, a photo on Facebook with the student receiving an award, or images on Tumblr that offer a pictorial view of the student's hobbies or volunteer work are just a few examples of ways such media can be used to illuminate the person behind the application.

Sources: Alan Katzman, "Why College Bound Students Aren't Taking Their Social Media Too Seriously (Yet)," October 5, 2014, <http://socialassurity.com/newsandblog/2014/10/5/why-college-bound-students-arent-taking-their-social-media-too-seriously-yet>; "College Bound: A Few Clicks Away," www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/articles/Pages/College-Bound.aspx; Natasha Singer, "Toning Down the Tweets Just in Case Colleges Pry," *New York Times*, November 19, 2014, www.nytimes.com/2014/11/20/technology/college-applicants-sanitize-online-profiles-as-college-pry.html; "How to Use Social Media in Your College Search," *IvyWise*, Volume 9, Issue 3, 2013, www.ivywise.com/newsletter_march13_social_media_college_search.html; "How High School Students Use Social Media in Their College Search," www.uversity.com/blog/social-media-and-the-college-search-infographic; Brendan Conway, "Using Social Media for College Admissions: Using Facebook, Twitter, and More," January 30, 2013, www.petersons.com/college-search/social-media-college-admissions.aspx; "Social Media and Your College Search," 2013, <http://collegesofdistinction.com/resource/social-media-and-your-college-search>.



New York's 100+ Private Colleges and Universities

Visit: www.nycolleges.org

Featuring:

- Updated preparing and planning for college resources for middle and high school students, transfer students, and U.S. military veterans/active duty service members
- New career exploration/student programs page with career exploration tools and internship opportunities
- Academic programs by college or by program interest
- A locator map to search for colleges by zip code
- Campus profiles to find the college that is right for you
- Upcoming open houses, admissions, and financial aid events at private colleges and universities
- Searchable database of outreach and enrichment programs by college



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| <p>Adelphi University (A, B, G)
 Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (B, G)
 Albany Law School (G)*
 Albany Medical College (G)*
 American Academy McAllister Institute (A)
 American Museum of Natural History Richard Gilder Graduate School (G)*
 Bank Street College of Education (G)*
 Bard College (A, B, G)
 Barnard College (B)
 The Belanger School of Nursing (A)
 Boricua College (A, B, G)
 Bramson ORT College (A)
 Canisius College (B, G)
 Cazenovia College (A, B)
 Clarkson University (B, G)
 Cochran School of Nursing (A)
 Cold Spring Harbor, Watson School of Biological Sciences (G)*
 Colgate University (B, G)
 College of Mount Saint Vincent (A, B, G)
 The College of New Rochelle (B, G)
 The College of Saint Rose (B, G)
 Columbia University (B, G)
 Concordia College (A, B, G)
 Cooper Union (B, G)
 Cornell University (B, G)
 The Culinary Institute of America (A, B)
 Daemen College (B, G)
 Dominican College (A, B, G)
 Dowling College (B, G)
 D'Youville College (B, G)
 Elmira College (A, B, G)
 Excelsior College (A, B, G)
 Fei Tian College (B)
 Finger Lakes Health College of Nursing (A)
 Fordham University (B, G)
 Hamilton College (B)
 Hartwick College (B)
 Helene Fuld College of Nursing (A, B)
 Hilbert College (A, B, G)
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges (B, G)
 Hofstra University (B, G)
 Houghton College (A, B, G)
 Institute of Design and Construction (A)
 Iona College (B, G)
 Ithaca College (B, G)
 Keuka College (B, G)
 The King's College (B)
 Le Moyne College (B, G)
 Long Island University (A, B, G)
 Manhattan College (B, G)
 Manhattan School of Music (B, G)
 Manhattanville College (B, G)
 Maria College (A, B)
 Marist College (B, G)
 Marymount Manhattan College (B)
 Medaille College (A, B, G)
 Memorial School of Nursing (A)</p> | <p>Mercy College (A, B, G)
 Metropolitan College of New York (A, B, G)
 Molloy College (A, B, G)
 Montefiore School of Nursing (A)
 Mount Saint Mary College (B, G)
 Nazareth College (B, G)
 The New School (A, B, G)
 New York Chiropractic College (G)*
 New York College of Podiatric Medicine (G)*
 New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) (A, B, G)
 New York School of Interior Design (A, B, G)
 New York University (A, B, G)
 Niagara University (A, B, G)
 Nyack College (A, B, G)
 Pace University (A, B, G)
 Paul Smith's College of Arts and Sciences (A, B)
 Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing (A, B)
 Pratt Institute (A, B, G)
 Relay Graduate School of Education (G)*
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (B, G)
 Roberts Wesleyan College (A, B, G)
 Rochester Institute of Technology (A, B, G)
 The Rockefeller University (G)*
 The Sage Colleges (B, G)
 Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing (A)
 Sarah Lawrence College (B, G)
 Siena College (B, G)
 Skidmore College (B, G)
 St. Bonaventure University (B, G)
 St. Elizabeth College of Nursing (A)
 St. Francis College (A, B, G)
 St. John Fisher College (B, G)
 St. John's University (A, B, G)
 St. Joseph's College (B, G)
 St. Joseph's College of Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center (A)
 St. Lawrence University (B, G)
 St. Thomas Aquinas College (A, B, G)
 Syracuse University (A, B, G)
 Teachers College, Columbia University (G)*
 Touro College and University System (A, B, G)
 Trocaire College (A, B)
 Union College (B)
 Union Graduate College (G)*
 University of Rochester (B, G)
 Utica College (B, G)
 Vassar College (B, G)
 Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology (A, B, G)
 Villa Maria College (A, B)
 Wagner College (B, G)
 Webb Institute (B)
 Wells College (B)
 Yeshiva University (A, B, G)</p> |
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Key:

- A – Associate degree offered
- B – Bachelor's degree offered
- G – Graduate degree offered (Master's, Doctorate, or First Professional)
- * – Graduate-only campus