

TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

Presenter: Ann Binder, DCCC
Director of Special Needs Services



Questions to Answer

- What will be my rights and responsibilities as a college student? How do they differ from High School?
- What is the role of the parent of a college student?
- What is the DCCC application procedure?
- What documentation do I need to provide to request reasonable accommodations?
- What are reasonable accommodations? How do I request them?
- What strategies will help me be successful?



What will Be My Rights and Responsibilities as a College Student? How Will They Differ?

- IDEA is about success - ADA is about access
- Entitlement vs. Eligibility
- High School is mandatory and free
College is voluntary and expensive
- High School's vs. student's responsibility for identifying needs and requesting services
- Fundamental Modifications vs. Reasonable Accommodations



What is the Role of the Parent of a College Student?

- Parents' role shifts from advocate/decision maker to supportive coaching role
- Parents don't have access to student records without student's written permission
- Parents encourage students to develop independent decision making and self advocacy skills



What is the DCCC Application Procedure?

- Submit DCCC application for admission
- Receive acceptance letter directing you to schedule a placement test
- The College Accuplacer placement test provides adequate time for most students with LD
- Schedule college planning session to meet with a counselor to go over scores and schedule classes
- Submit disability documentation to the Office of Special Needs Services
- Meet with Ann Binder to request reasonable accommodations and discuss support services



What Documentation Do I Need to Provide to Request Reasonable Accommodations?

- A current comprehensive assessment battery and the resulting diagnostic report including an interview assessment of aptitude, academic achievement, information processing and a diagnosis. This report should also include specific recommendations for accommodations.
- An IEP is not sufficient but may be included with the psycho-educational evaluation or Evaluation Report



What are Reasonable Accommodations?

- Accommodations are designed to level the playing field
- Accommodations do not alter the essential nature of the course requirements
- Accommodations are based on the individual student's disability documentation and needs
- Accommodations may include: extended test time, testing in a less distracting environment, tests read, note taking assistance, spelling allowances, assistive technology



How do I Request Accommodations?

- Submit documentation for review
- Schedule an interview with Ann Binder
- Discuss your disability and what accommodations have been helpful in the past
- Pick up your accommodation letters every semester during the first week of classes
- Meet with your instructors to make arrangements
- Communicate with Ann Binder ASAP if you have concerns during the semester



What Strategies Will Help Me Be Successful?

Ann's Top Ten List

on how to succeed in college!

- #10 Set realistic goals
- #9 Assume responsibility
- #8 Schedule for success
- #7 Manage your time wisely
- #6 Use effective organization skills



Ann's Top Ten List Continued...

- #5 Understand your learning disability
- #4 Know your learning style
- #3 Be a self-advocate
- #2 Use the support services available
- #1 Use your accommodations