

College Planning for Students with a Disability



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Shriners Hospitals for Children knows that college planning can be a stressful time, especially navigating the process for a student with a disability. Federal law requires any school, private or public, to provide resources and accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with a significant disability should research the availability of disability services per university and allow this to be a deciding factor in how they choose their college or university. Prior to the application process, the student should meet with the high school guidance counselor to discuss your interests and goals for college. This is also the time they can discuss what scholarships may be available and to connect with student services.

Characteristics of Three Types of Colleges

Type of College	Characteristics
Community College	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offers experience in a college environment while living at home. Some may have residential offerings or dorms• Has few admissions requirements• Provides the chance to increase academic skills through developmental or remedial classes• Is an opportunity to try out one or two college courses• Offers a chance to build a good academic record before you transfer to a four-year college• Has lower tuition and costs than a four-year college• Has services to support students with disabilities
Technical College	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has small classes in which teachers provide individualized attention• Usually have open admissions but require a HS diploma or GED• Offers classes to work on improving reading, writing, and math skills• Offers hands-on training for a variety of careers• Has services to support students with disabilities
Four Year College or University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has services to support students with disabilities• Offers many different classes to develop talents or knowledge in one subject• Offers the chance to live away from home in a dorm or apartment and to develop independent living skills

Application Process

- Application form/Application Fee
- High school transcripts including date of graduation
- SAT or ACT Scores
 - Accommodations for the SAT and/or ACT can be made, but you will need to submit the required documentation of your disability and do this as soon as you enter high school.

Online Resources to plan for College

- Thinkcollege.net
- Studentaid.gov
- SATreg.collegeboard.org
- my.ACT.org
- Preparing for College: An Online Tutorial | DO-IT (washington.edu)
- Scholarships.com



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For more information visit shrinerschildrens.org

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