



What To Ask When Visiting the Office of Disabilities

Are you considering college? The transition to adult life has many challenges and a major one is choosing what to do after high school. More students with disabilities are planning for postsecondary education than ever. Whether you are interested in a vocational school, career school, community college or university, the time to plan is now. Getting informed about your rights and responsibilities is a smart thing to do and we would like to help.

Start by contacting the school and asking about services for students with disabilities. You can call on the phone, visit the campus or even review their website to learn about services. There are some of the more common questions students have for the Office of Disabilities at the school.

- ✓ What is the name, phone number, and hours of operation for the Office of Disabilities?

- ✓ How far in advance should I contact the Office of Disabilities?

- ✓ What is the process for accessing the services of the Office of Disabilities and is there a deadline?

- ✓ What documentation must I provide to identify myself as a student with a disability to get reasonable accommodations?

- ✓ Who decides if I qualify for academic accommodations?

- ✓ What types of accommodations are considered reasonable?

- ✓ Is tutoring available and is there a cost?
- ✓ Is there a support group on campus for students with disabilities?
- ✓ Do professors have regular office hours?
- ✓ Is there any other information I should know?

Typical Types of Accommodations*

Instruction:

Adaptive Aids
 Adaptive Furniture (desk)
 Assistive Technology
 Enlarged Text
 Extra Time on Assignments
 Reader (talking tapes or person reading)
 Selective Seating
 Sign Language Interpreter
 Someone to take notes
 Tape record information
 Tutor
 Typist

Testing:

Assistive Technology
 Computer-read Test
 Contrasts in Ink and Paper
 Enlarged Text
 Essay Test vs. Multiple Choice Test
 Extended Time
 Misspellings not graded
 Printed copy of Oral Instructions
 Someone to Read the Test
 Scribe (one to write down answer)
 Tape-recorded lectures, test
 Quiet Environment, No Distractions

***accommodations vary and you should check with your individual institution to learn what is available**

Adapted from:

***College A Rhode Island Directory for Students with Disabilities* published by Rhode Island Transition, Independence, Employment, a systems change project, with support from the U.S. Department of Education Grant #H158A60002 through the Rhode Island Department of Education in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network and Regional Transition Centers. Last updated 11/06.**