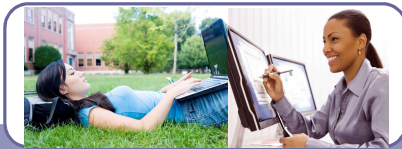



The Range of Learning Support Services in Postsecondary Education



Are you concerned about...

- Poor organization
- Inconsistent grades
- Procrastination
- Poor social skills
- Lack of motivation



If so, you are in the right place!


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Foundations

- Consider student's academic, emotional, and social needs in selecting colleges
- The college search should be a student-driven process
- A good overall fit is extremely important for students with ADHD

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College Ready?



A cartoon showing a teacher on the left with a sign that says "HOMEWORK DUE". On the right, a student is sitting at a desk with a laptop, saying "I'VE PREPARED A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION THAT EXPLAINS WHY I DIDN'T DO MY HOMEWORK." The cartoon is signed "© 2018 by Andrew Davis/Comic Strip Guy for U.S. News & World Report".

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Life Skills

- Waking up
- Laundry
- Meals
- Medications
- Money management



A green alarm clock and a yellow toaster with a slice of toast popping out.

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IDEA vs. ADA/Section 504

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
K-12 Education

Children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE)

Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973)
(Civil Rights Law) Education and Workplace

Protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability (provides access)

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High School vs. College

- IEP, 504 Plans and Accommodations Plans do NOT follow a student to college
- Need full psychoeducational testing to receive services and accommodations after high school
- Student must act as self-advocate; parents not involved beyond initial meeting

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Psychoeducational Testing

- Documentation requirements
 - Full battery of testing
 - WAIS-IV (16+ years old)
 - Tests of Achievement
 - Specific rationale for math and foreign language substitution/exemption

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Identifying your Child's Needs

- Hands-on, experiential learning
- Internships, co-op experiences
- Interactive classes (bored in lecture-style)
- Ability to have reduced course load
- Priority registration (balanced course load)
- Benefit from carefully chosen professors
- Professional ADHD Coaching

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The College List

- Same criteria as “neurotypical” students
 - Size, location, environment, major, etc.


In addition:

- More important to have small interactive classes than large “rah rah” university (needs vs. wants)
- Need to connect student to learning specialist/ADHD Coach *before school starts* to increase likelihood of successful first semester

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College Readiness

- **Academic** ability
- **Emotional** regulation
- **Social** skills



Think: Three Legged Stool

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Alternative “Next Steps” to College

- Postsecondary Programs
 - College Internship Program (MA, FL, IN, CA)
 - Mansfield Hall (VT, WI, OR)
 - Institute for Collegiate and Career Studies (NY)
- Two Year Residential Colleges
 - Vermont Technical College
 - Penn College of Technology
- Summer Programs
 - Landmark College
 - Beacon College
 - College Internship Program

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Gap Year Programs



- Travel/Community Service/Internships
- Goals of Gap Year
 - Leadership
 - Self-confidence
 - Social skills
 - Emotional growth
 - Independence



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Spectrum of Support in College

Know what your child needs:

- Basic ADA compliance
- Moderate support services
- Comprehensive support programs
- Social/life skills support programs



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**Typical Accommodations Available
(on a case-by-case basis)**

- Extended time on tests
- Reduced-distraction testing environment
- Notetaker services
- Use of assistive technology
- Use of a calculator
- Reduced course load
- Priority registration
- Course substitutions (Foreign Language; Math)

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To Disclose or Not to Disclose?

- Disclosure on application can explain discrepancies
- To receive accommodations, must disclose and provide current documentation to Disability Support Services (DSS)
- Without disclosure, professors are not obligated to make accommodations
- Not disclosing or using accommodations can be the difference between success and failure in college

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Process of Evaluating and Obtaining Accommodations and Services

- Visit the Disabilities Office and/or Learning Center on your initial college visit
- After acceptance, *but before enrolling*, meet with the Director of Disability Services to be sure the college can provide the types of accommodations your child needs
- In the summer before the first semester of college, student and parents meet with the Director of Disability Services to discuss setting up accommodations
- Student should share accommodations letter with instructors during the first week of class

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Basic ADA Compliance (Minimal Support)

- Basic accommodations available
- No professional learning specialist
- Student needs to be self-advocate
- No distraction-reduced testing environment
- Peer tutors may be available

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Moderate Support Services

- Sensitivity to students with learning differences
- Many accommodations and services offered
- Learning Center staffed by professional with degree in special education or psychology
- May advocate for student
- Student still needs to seek out assistance
- Distraction-reduced testing environment, usually in the Learning Center

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Moderate Support (continued)

- Peer or professional tutors
- Support groups and workshops
- Specialized summer programs
- Organizational and study skills assistance
- May schedule weekly appointments
- Drop-in assistance available
- Most services initiated by student

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Colleges with Moderate Support

Some examples are:

- McDaniel College (MD)
- Webster University (MO)
- Southern Oregon University
- St. Edward's University (TX)
- Tulane University (LA)
- Chapman University (CA)

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Comprehensive Support Program

- Specific program for students with learning differences and/or ADHD
- Fee-based program
- Students remain part of college community
- Full-time director and several staff members
- May communicate directly with professors
- Will advocate on behalf of students

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Comprehensive Program (continued)

- Assistance with organization and time management skills
- Will meet one-on-one with student
 - Once a week up to several times a week
 - Typically 3 – 5 hours a week
- Will meet in small groups
 - Supplementary instruction (SI)
 - Subject-based study groups

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Colleges with Comprehensive Programs

Some examples are:

- Dean College (MA)
- Adelphi University (NY)
- University of the Ozarks (AR)
- Fairleigh Dickinson University (NJ)
- University of Denver (CO)
- McDaniel College (MD)

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Colleges with Social Support Programs

- Program for students on the Autism Spectrum and those with social anxiety/awkwardness related to ADHD
- Learning specialists act as case managers and may assist students in advocating with professors
- Provides structured social support through activities and mentoring
- Students are part of college community; may provide separate housing or match roommates

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Colleges with Social Support Programs

These programs include a social skills development component:

- Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)
- University of Connecticut
- Adelphi University (NY)
- Mercyhurst University (PA)
- Augsburg College (MN)

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Colleges Exclusively for Students who Learn Differently

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#1 Reason for Student Success

Meeting on a regular basis throughout the semester with a learning specialist who can help the student manage his/her workload and can reduce the likelihood of a downward spiral

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Resources

- The K & W Guide for Students with LD and ADHD (Princeton Review)
 - Provides a good starting point in researching over 350 colleges
- CollegeWebLD www.collegewebld.com
 - A one-stop resource for evaluating the disability and learning support services at 400+ colleges

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Summary

- Question and Answer Period



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