

# Preparing Students for College Checklist

Middle and high school special education teachers play an important role in helping students with disabilities to understand the array of college options available, plan for those options, and leave high school prepared for postsecondary education aligned with their goals.

STEPS	DATE COMPLETED	NOTES/NEXT STEPS
1. Consult with school/career counselor about college options for student and set up a student meeting with the counselor		
2. Compile information about several college/postsecondary education options to share with student and family		
3. Talk with student and family about possible college options and plans for postsecondary education, including financial planning		
4. Support student to explore career interests and research education needs that coincide with those interests		
5. Complete age-appropriate transition assessments to help determine appropriate postsecondary, annual, and short-term goals for student		
6. Work with student and their family to develop postsecondary employment and education goals based on interests and strengths		
7. Assist student to map out a course of study that will help them prepare for their postsecondary education and employment goals		
8. Explain the differences between services allowable in an IEP versus a 504 plan since IEP's cannot carry over to college		



<p>9. Work with the student, family, and IEP team to reduce support and increase independence of the student to complete work for classes, implementing the types of supports that will be available in college and gradually reducing services that will not be (e.g. – paraprofessional support, modified assignments)</p>		
<p>10. Introduce additional technology and supports for student to try in various classes as part of the strategy to increase independence and prepare for college (Kurzweil, Dragon, smart pens audio recording, electronic pens, note-taking assistance, study groups, tutoring)</p>		
<p>11. Work with the student and family to increase independence in health care and understand the need to schedule their own appointments, understand medication side effects and be responsible for health insurance information.</p>		
<p>12. Provide information about DVR to student and family so they can apply to seek assistance in overcoming employment barriers, including barriers to career-related education needs if they choose to do so (if student is already connected with DVR, ask if post-secondary education is part of the current plan with DVR)</p>		
<p>13. Encourage student and family to schedule visits at colleges of interest, including meeting with someone from the disability services center at each, and check in with students and families to find out their thoughts after visits (list specific colleges in notes section)</p>		

**Additional Resources**  
[Think College Wisconsin](#)

