



POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

As a student with a disability, you will make many decisions about your future after high school. You may want to go to more school or you may want to start your career by getting a job. Whichever direction you choose, the following information will help you understand your options.

4 Year Colleges

Most colleges and universities provide some level of services and/or accommodations for students with disabilities. Contact the office at the college that oversees student support services before you start school. Learn about what supports they offer. Some schools offer more than others. You need to know what the school expects you to do as well as what the school can do to support you. Understanding your rights and responsibilities will help you enjoy college.

Technical Schools

The Technical College System of Georgia oversees the state's 22 Technical Colleges with 88 campus locations across the state and over 600 programs. You will need to contact the Special Needs Counselor at your college in order to receive classroom accommodations. Typically, this must be done each and every semester you attend the technical college.

Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Programs (IPSE)

Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) programs offer students with intellectual and developmental disabilities a variety of experiences and opportunities for growth. There are currently 8 Georgia Colleges and Universities that offer these programs.

Tips for Youth/Young Adults and Their Families:

- Begin planning for transition to life after high school as early as possible. Choose the right classes so you can earn a standard Georgia High School Diploma which is required by most 2- and 4-year degree programs. In addition, some colleges require additional classes, like a foreign language.
- Learn about the protections provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which will apply after high school.
- Learn what supports may be available from the college or technical schools you would like to attend. The law requires schools to provide accommodations to students with disabilities, but it does not require them to change the coursework.
- The Regents Center for Learning Disorders has 3 Centers in Georgia. These centers provide services (including evaluations) for students who have a learning disability and have been accepted to a Georgia state university. You will need documentation of your disability and possibly also an educational evaluation to get accommodations.
- Find out if the colleges you are interested in require SAT and ACT scores, as many schools are now test optional. Apply for accommodations on the SAT and ACT, if needed.
- Ask your school counselor what funding might be available to assist with tuition and college costs.
- If you are receiving government benefits, you should contact the Social Security Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 to find out how a job might affect these benefits.

There are many different types of job situations that might be appropriate and rewarding to an individual with a disability. Job training programs can help you meet professional goals and gain entrance into a desired career.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

VR is a program of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA). VR helps students with disabilities transition from school to work. VR provides no-cost Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities, starting at age 14 (9th grade) through age 22. Eligible students may apply for VR services at any time. A formal application is not required to receive Pre-ETS.

Internships

Internships are work-learning experiences that take place on the job. Internships can be paid or unpaid, part-time or full-time, and they can last anywhere from a few weeks to a few years. Internships provide students with disabilities the opportunity to develop the basic job skills needed to compete in the job market.

Apprenticeships

Apprentices typically work 30-40 hours per week and receive classroom training through part-time attendance at technical colleges, universities or approved training providers.

- Job Corps is a nationwide residential career training program that helps eligible young people ages 16 through 24 complete their high school education, trains them for meaningful careers, and assists them with obtaining employment.
- AmeriCorps members volunteer with over 2,000 organizations nationwide. The program offers a small living allowance and money for college/trade school, in addition to job training.

Supported Employment

Supported Employment assists people with significant disabilities with supports, such as a job coach, to help find and keep work in typical work settings.

Volunteer Work

Volunteering allows individuals with disabilities to engage in meaningful work that accommodates their needs. As a volunteer, you can gain experience and learn new job skills, try out different types of jobs to see what you like, and make new contacts for future jobs. Examples of volunteer jobs include serving meals at a senior center, helping out at a local animal shelter or assisting with childcare/after-school/summer programs.

Where to go for more information:

Parent to Parent of Georgia

770 451-5484 or 800-229-2038

www.p2pga.org

GA Department of Education, Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports

404 656-3963 or 800-311-3627 and ask to be transferred to Special Education

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx

Additional resources: Contact the Special Education Director for your school system.



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