



After High School: Planning for College & Beyond with Special Needs

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WHICH PATH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

- **RIGHT TO COLLEGE:**

Best for student who exhibits many attributes of college readiness. Student and family feel they are capable of handling a full college course load while navigating the transition into independent living.

- **SCAFFOLDED COLLEGE TRACK:**

Best for student who has a strong drive and desire to go to college, but may not feel quite ready to balance both course work and independent living demands. This track can take many forms.

- **GAP YEAR/VOLUNTEER YEAR:**

Some students may not feel quite ready to go off right to school, or may be undecided about where they want to go/what they want to do. A gap year can be beneficial for student who want to hone their independent living skills, build self confidence or ease their transition into college life.

WHICH PATH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

- **RIGHT TO WORK:**

Not every student wants to go to college and choose to enter the workforce after high school. You can work with a designated counselor from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission who is able to assist students with job training and placement opportunities.

- **TRADE SCHOOL & CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:**

Trade schools are often overlooked. If your student enjoys working and learning with their hands then this may be the option for them. There are a variety of trade school and apprenticeship options available which can be researched on an individual basis.

- **COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

In MA, the Commonwealth Commitment Program is available. This program allows students the ability to apply and be accepted directly into any of our 4 year state schools with a discounted tuition rate.

POST SECONDARY PLANNING TIMELINE

JUNIOR YEAR - 2ND SEMESTER

- Knowing Yourself. Explore learning styles, personalities and college readiness by using inventories including, but not limited to: **Naviance Strengths Inventor, Myers Briggs Personality Explorer, Career Inventory and Research Tool, Landmark College's College Readiness Tool**
- Finding your fit. Explore college types, criteria, supports, majors and goal setting.
- Application Preparation. Learn about the application process, information gathering and essay drafting.

SENIOR YEAR - FIRST SEMESTER

- Getting organized. Organize admission plans, application types, supplements, interviews, visits and financial aid/scholarship deadlines.
- Finalize your essay.
- The interview. PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE!
- Disclosure. Educate yourself on special ed laws for students vs. adults, know your needs, how to obtain accommodations in college and/or the workplace.

DEVELOPING A COLLEGE LIST

- **Know yourself** (part of transition services and discussed earlier)
- **College selection factors:** Large campus, small campus, public school, private schools, urban or suburban locations, far from home, residential campus, student support services, special program availability, quality of programs, cost and athletics/activities.
- Use a college visit rating sheet and guide.

STANDARDIZED TESTING AT A GLANCE

- The SAT and ACT both offer accommodations, but the process of applying for them is different.
- Kids who get testing accommodations through an IEP or a 504 plan can often get the same accommodations on the SAT or ACT. This is not automatic - they have to be formally applied for. Schools will apply for these on behalf of your student.
- Decide which exam is a better fit for your student. Students often do about 100 points better on one vs the other.

STANDARDIZED TESTING & ACCOMMODATIONS

SAT

- Extra time
- Extra and extended breaks
- Use of a computer for the essay portion (school based testing)
- Small group testing
- Reading accommodations (audio test format)
- Multiple day testing
- Use of a four function calculator on math sections

ACT

- Extra Time (time and a half extended time)
- Extra breaks
- Alternate testing formats (Use of a computer for the essay portion)
- Small group testing
- Testing over multiple days. This allows for a three week testing window in which to schedule, meaning students can take just one section a day if desired
- Reading accommodations (such as assistive technology and readers)

TYPICAL ACCOMMODATIONS IN COLLEGE

- Priority registration
- Exam modifications (extended time, readers, scribes, proctors)
- Testing in a quiet space with limited distractions
- Interpreters
- Textbooks in an alternate format
- Course substitutions
- Option of an oral exam
- Ability to record lectures
- Extended time on assignments
- Academic support services (executive function, study skills, tutors)
- Proofreader
- Spelling & grammar assistive devices for essay exams
- Use of a calculator
- Scratch paper for exams
- Note takers
- Copies of lecture notes/slides
- Copy & Print services
- Housing accommodations

COLLEGES WITH ASD-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND/OR MORE INTENSIVE DISABILITY SUPPORTS

Adelphi University - Bridges to Adelphi

Dean College - Arch Learning Community

Farleigh Dickinson University - COMPASS Program

Landmark College

Marshall University - The College Program for Students with Autism

Mercyhurst College - AIM Program

Mitchell College - Bentsen Learning Center Program

Pace University - OASIS Program

Rochester Institute of Technology - Spectrum Support Program

Rutgers University - College Support for Students on the Autism Spectrum

University of Connecticut - Center for Students with Disabilities

Westfield State University - Learning Disabilities Program

TOP RATED LGBTQ FRIENDLY COLLEGES IN THE NORTHEAST

UVM

Bridgewater State

Tufts

Clark

Brandeis

Emerson

Connecticut College

University of Connecticut

Adelphi

Wheaton

WPI

Southern New Hampshire University

Suffolk

Ithaca College

Pace

SUMMER PROGRAMS

- College Internship Programs (CIP) www.cipworldwide.org
- College Living Experience (CLE) www.experiencecle.com
- Landmark College Summer Programs www.landmark.edu
- Mansfield Hall Summer Semester or College Readiness Program www.mansfieldhall.org
- WPI Frontiers Program www.wpi.edu
- Next Step - College Success and Independent Living <https://jbcc.harvard.edu>