

Junior Year

College

Informational

Booklet

Choosing a College for Students with Learning Disabilities

There are many colleges and universities in the United States that have good track records when it comes to accommodating learning disabilities. The quality of any given college's response is subject to funding, administrative decisions and the current image an institution is trying to promote. What was once an effective, coordinated support program one year, may turn into a vague assortment of academic support services the next. The commercially available guidebooks to colleges and universities for students with learning disabilities do a fine job capturing most of the institutions and what they offer the students.

Services/Accommodations that May be Available to LD Students at Selected Colleges and Universities

- Preferential or early registration
- Counsel on which courses to take given an instructor's style and sensitivity to learning disabilities
- Reduced or redistributed course load (e.g. not taking a number of heavy reading courses simultaneously)
- Skills development and remediation (reading, spelling, writing, math)
- Modified exam arrangements (oral, untimed, extended time, scribe, use of word processor for essays)
- Assistance with note-taking (note-taking buddy, taping lectures)
- Course waivers and substitutions (foreign language, sometimes in math)
- Assistance with proofreading
- Use of calculators, spelling aces, lap computers in classes
- Taped textbooks, readers, electronic text readers (text recognition synthesized speech machines)
- Assistance with developing oral expression
- Speech and language specialists
- Assistance with personal organization
- Assistance with time management
- Writing, reading, math, study skills centers (be careful, some have personnel who know little about the needs of students with learning disabilities)
- Support for students on medication (e.g. students with ADHD)
- Social skills training
- Training and support in developing and maintaining motivation and attention

Questions to Ask When Visiting a College

Here are some questions many students and parents fail to ask when visiting a college/university:

- Ask to speak with current users of support services and/or their parents (see next section for suggested questions to ask)
- Ask if they track their LD graduates; if so where do they go? Graduate school, employment?
- What's the retention rate of LD students?
- What types of in service or support does the institution offer faculty re: accommodating students with special needs?
- Is support, tutorial, instruction in the program offered by interns, graduate students, peer tutors or trained professionals? (this questions may give you a sense for how they staff the program which may give you an idea re: institution's commitment to the program)
- Ask how accommodations are determined and granted at the college and who grants them? Are they based on the high school IEP? This is a critical question as some colleges may tie accommodations to what was on the IEP. That means it's important to pay attention to your education plan and what's on it in high school. They may also tie accommodations to what was recommended or discussed in the summary/conclusions of your testing. If you know you truly need an accommodation, discuss it with your learning specialist and make sure it is documented while in high school.

Questions to Ask a Current User of the College's Support Services

- Does your advisor understand your needs?
- Are professors responsive to your needs?
- Do you receive assistance in advocating to difficult professors?
- Can you receive support when you need it or do you have to wait?
- In talking to this student, explain what you will need in the way of support services and ask the student if she/he thinks you will receive those services.

Colleges with Programs for Learning Disabled Students

Almost all colleges and universities provide some level of services and/or accommodations for learning disabled students, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The colleges and universities listed below go a step further...they offer programs, some quite comprehensive, designed to support students with learning disabilities.

<u>Abilene Christian University</u>	<u>Limestone College</u>
<u>Adelphi University</u>	<u>Long Island University/</u>
<u>Albion College</u>	<u>C.W. Post Campus</u>
<u>Alfred University</u>	<u>Loras College</u>
<u>American International College</u>	<u>Louisburg College</u>
<u>American University</u>	<u>Lynn University</u>
<u>Anderson University</u>	<u>Manhattanville College</u>
<u>Andrew College</u>	<u>Marist College</u>
<u>Augsburg College</u>	<u>Marshall University</u>
<u>Baylor University</u>	<u>Marymount Manhattan College</u>
<u>Barry University</u>	<u>Menlo College</u>
<u>Beacon College</u>	<u>Mercyhurst College</u>
<u>Boston University</u>	<u>Meredith College</u>
<u>California State University Fullerton</u>	<u>Messiah College</u>
<u>Centenary College</u>	<u>Missouri State University</u>
<u>Clarion University of Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Mitchell College</u>
<u>Community College of Allegheny County</u>	<u>Morningside College</u>
<u>College of Charleston</u>	<u>Muskingum College</u>
<u>College of Mount St. Joseph</u>	<u>New York Institute of Technology</u>
<u>College of St. Catherine</u>	<u>Nicholls State University</u>
<u>Colorado School of Mines</u>	<u>Northeastern University</u>
<u>Columbia College- Chicago</u>	<u>Notre Dame College</u>
<u>Creighton University</u>	<u>Pacific University</u>
<u>Curry College</u>	<u>Rochester Institute of Technology</u>
<u>De Paul University</u>	<u>Rocky Mountain College</u>
<u>Diablo Valley College</u>	<u>Roosevelt University</u>
<u>East Carolina University</u>	<u>St. Ambrose University</u>
<u>Eastern New Mexico University- Roswell</u>	<u>St. Mary's University of Minnesota</u>
<u>Edinboro University of Pennsylvania</u>	<u>St. Michael's College</u>
<u>Finlandia University</u>	<u>Santa Monica College</u>
<u>Gannon University</u>	<u>Schreiner University</u>
<u>Hofstra University</u>	<u>Southeast Missouri State University</u>
<u>Iona College</u>	<u>Southern Illinois University at Carbondale</u>
<u>Iowa State University</u>	<u>Southern Illinois University Edwardsville</u>
<u>Johnson State College</u>	<u>Southern Oregon University</u>
<u>Kent State University</u>	<u>Southern Vermont College</u>
<u>Landmark College</u>	<u>State University of New York College at Oneonta</u>
<u>La Roche College</u>	<u>Texas State University-San Marcos</u>
<u>Lee University</u>	<u>Texas Tech University</u>

Colleges with Programs for Learning Disabled Students continued

University of Akron
University of Arizona
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Indianapolis
University of Iowa
University of Memphis
University of Minnesota at Duluth
University of the Ozarks
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
University of Wisconsin- Whitewater
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Ursuline College
Villanova University
Waldorf College
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Westminster College
Xavier University

By viewing the website below, you will be able to click on the names of the colleges and universities above, you will be taken to the pages of their websites which detail their learning disabilities programs and, in most cases, list the names of and contact information.

**** Please go to this website to be able to view the list of colleges and click for further information: http://www.college-scholarships.com/learning_disabilities.htm

College Search and Learning Disabled websites

www.ahead.org - Association of higher education and disability (AHEAD)

www.princetonreview.com - Princeton Review

www.curry.edu - Curry College; Academics—LD Program

www.greatschools.org - Click on high school tab and then click on special education

www.ldonline.org - website on learning disabilities and ADHD

You can also go to www.collegeboard.com and use the college match maker program to find colleges and information about particular schools.

SAT vs. ACT Comparison Chart

The SAT and ACT are two very different college entrance exams. Both are nationally administered and are used to help colleges evaluate applicants. The SAT is essentially a three-part aptitude test (Reading, Math, Writing) while the ACT is more of an achievement test with four core sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) and an optional Writing section. Many colleges will accept either test or both exams. Some colleges require one (typically the SAT). The chart below will help you understand the structure and content of the SAT and ACT.

	SAT	ACT
Length	3 hours, 45 minutes	3 hours, 25 minutes (includes optional 30-minute Writing Test)
Sections	10 Sections: 3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 3 Writing (including Essay), 1 Experimental (not scored)	4 Sections (plus optional Writing Test): English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing
Subjects	Critical Reading Math Writing	English Math Reading Science Writing (optional)
Reading	Reading passages with questions pertaining to comprehension and sentence completion	4 passages, 10 questions per passage
Science	N/A	Science (analysis, knowledge, problem solving)
Math	Arithmetic, geometry, algebra, and algebra II	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
Essay	Required	Optional (final section)
Score Composition	$\frac{1}{3}$ Math $\frac{1}{3}$ Reading $\frac{1}{3}$ Writing	$\frac{1}{4}$ English $\frac{1}{4}$ Math $\frac{1}{4}$ Reading $\frac{1}{4}$ Science
Scoring	Aggregate score 600 - 2400 based on total of 3 scores 200- 800 (Reading, Math, Writing) Score of 0-12 for Essay	Composite score 1-36 based on average of 4 sections (English Math, Reading Science) Score 0-12 for Optional Essay.
Penalties	Penalties (typically $\frac{1}{4}$ point deducted) for wrong answers	No penalties for incorrect answers
Sending Scores to Colleges	Starting in March 2009, students can select (opt-in feature) which will allow them to choose specific test date(s) – 3/09 and forward - and all scores from the selected test date(s) will be sent.	Student decides which scores are sent
Additional Information	www.collegeboard.com	www.actstudent.org

SAT & ACT Test Dates for 2010-2011

ACT Test Dates

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>(Late Fee Required)</u>
September 11, 2010*	August 6, 2010	August 7-20, 2010
October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010	September 18 - October 1, 2010
December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 6 - 19, 2010
February 12, 2011**	January 7, 2011	January 8 - 21, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011	March 5 - 18, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 7 - 20, 2011

**** go to www.act.org to register

**** Juniors are recommended to take the test in June and then retake the test in September and October if you are not happy with your scores.

SAT Test Dates

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Register-By Date</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>
October 9, 2010	September 10, 2010	September 24, 2010
November 6, 2010	October 8, 2010	October 22, 2010
December 4, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 19, 2010
January 22, 2011	December 23, 2010	January 7, 2011
March 12, 2011	February 11, 2011	February 25, 2011
May 7, 2011	April 8, 2011	April 22, 2011
June 4, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 20, 2011

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