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## Success in College

Students who are going to be successful in college need to have basic skills. This is not a comprehensive list of skills needed, but one that should be carefully and thoughtfully reviewed when considering college.

Students need to be able to:

- read college level textbooks; even developmental classes and books require a high reading skill level.
- write competently, writing in complete sentences and with complete thoughts is essential in almost all college classes, even those that are not English.
- have basic understanding of math and concepts. Developmental math classes move quickly and if the student is confused they will be responsible for seeking assistance from the Learning Lab.
- have a good general knowledge of the world, discussions in class will include world events, critical thinking and higher level thought processes and processing skills.
- have a maturity level to act as an adult and be treated as an adult. All responsibility is on the student, attendance, finding academic help, being academically competitive in class.
- have good time management skills, and ability to prioritize tasks.
- have a reasonable level of competency with technology, registration is online, grades are online, written assignments must be submitted online.
- have a reasonable level of competency with assistive technology, use of JAWS, RFB&D recorders, scanners etc.
- have a working knowledge of what assistive technology works best for certain classes.

- have realistic goals. Everyone must make choices. Not all students are able to go into the career of their dreams.
- know both strengths and weaknesses. Understand that accommodations do not make up for extreme weaknesses or deficits.

### **Recommendations for Success in College**

▶ Have up-to-date academic evaluations, in most cases no more than 3 years old, definitely not more than 5 years old. It is essential to have the current functioning level of the student. As students get older, their level of functioning becomes more standard. Testing done when a student is 13-14 and are now looking at needs of an 18 year old going to college is not going to be accurate or current. Have all documentation of high school accommodations/modifications (504 meeting, ARD, IEP).

▶ Have assistive technology needs defined and have training done before coming to college.

▶ Have a clear understanding of what self-advocacy is and how to be a self advocate by knowing how IDEA differs from the ADA and 504 in the college setting.

▶ Plan for transition. Visit several college campuses, talk with students, the ADA counselor, ask questions, get a catalog and schedule. Know what each college or campus offers both in services and in educational programs. The job being trained for will be the job you will do for many years, be sure you will be happy and able to do it. Don't choose a college just for atmosphere; you will only be there a few years.