



Virginia Intercommunity Transition Council
A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

VITC

Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

Education Options after High School

When should you start planning to transition to postsecondary education?

Students should start planning in middle school and take courses to prepare for college. Work with guidance counselors, special and general education teachers and family to prepare for this important transition. Look on postsecondary education Web sites to find answers to your questions. Participate in the Virginia Education Wizard assessment by 8th grade.

Questions to consider during the transition to postsecondary education process:

What are Disability Support Services and how might I access them?

Do I need support services to succeed in a postsecondary education setting?

If yes, how do I access those services?

When should I tell people about my disability?

With whom should I share my learning challenges?

Do I have documentation of my disability?

Do I want to live on campus or commute from home?

What are some critical skills needed by students with disabilities seeking admission to postsecondary education programs?

Understand your disability and how it affects learning.

Learn and use self-determination skills using self-advocacy. This means being able to tell professors and disability support personnel which accommodations work best for you.

Understand the differences and expectations between high school and postsecondary education (college).

What are some accommodations for college students with disabilities?

Online or Braille text

Time extensions for assignments or tests

Physical adaptations to learning environment

Assistive technology

Universally designed materials and software to improve access

How much does it cost for postsecondary education?

Check each college's Web site for tuition and fees

Fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form after January 1 of the year in which you will enroll in college. <http://www.fafsa.gov>

What are some resources that I might use now to learn answers to my questions?

www.going-to-college.org

www.thinkcollege.org

www.vawizard.org

For more information contact your local Special Education Director, [Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services - Division of Rehabilitative Services](#) or the [Virginia Department of Education](#).

Take the steps to person-centered thinking
ASK, LISTEN, RESPECT, COMMIT!