

Academic support for students with disabilities transitioning from secondary to post-secondary education

Jiyeon Park¹, Kim Seals², Leah Mcmaine²
¹Eastern Kentucky University, ²Model Laboratory School

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
College of Education and Applied Human Sciences

Introduction

- 19% of undergraduates are reported as having disabilities (U.S. Department of Education, 2017).
- While high school provides appropriate accommodations under the IDEA, undergraduates students with disabilities need to seek their right and responsibilities (Wolanin & Steele, 2004)
- For a smooth transition, not only high school programs but also postsecondary institutions need to work for preparing students with disabilities for postsecondary education.
- The purpose of this study is to investigate the preparedness of postsecondary institutions for students with disabilities and suggests transition planning from secondary to post-secondary education.

Difference in services

High School	Colleges/ Universities
IDEA, Section 504, Rehabilitation Act	ADA, Section 504, Rehabilitation Act
Individual Education Plan	Documentations vary depending on the disability
School conducts and provides evaluation at <u>no cost</u> to the students.	Students are responsible for obtaining evaluation and providing documentations to support the claim of having a disability.
Students are identified and supported <u>by parents and schools</u> .	Students must <u>self-identify</u> at designated office
Primary responsibility for accommodations <u>belongs to the high school</u>	Primary responsibility for accommodations <u>belongs to the student</u>
<u>Parents or guardian</u> primarily advocate students	<u>Students</u> advocate for themselves.
Parents have access to student's records and participates in accommodation process.	Parent does not have access to disability-related records unless student provides written consent.

Research Questions

1. What types of accessibility service are currently available for college students with disabilities?
2. How do the institutions support students with disabilities in their transition?

Method



24 public postsecondary institutions sites in KY
- 8 four-years universities
- 16 two-years colleges



Used the searching term on the institution websites
- "Disability" or "Accessibility" or "assistive"



Searched accessibility support service
- Accommodation Types and Procedure
- Required Documentation
- Transition service



Available service prepared by the institutions
- Accessibility service
- Procedure to check-out
- Types of Assistive technology devices

Results

1. Test Accommodations

- Extended time
- Distraction-reduced environment Room
- Use of the computer assisted technology lab
- Accessible testing format

2. Assistive technology

Visual Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen Magnifier (<i>Zoom Text Magnifier, CCTV</i>) • Voice Recognition (<i>Dragon Naturally Speaking</i>) • Adaptive reading formats (audio, Braille)
Hearing Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Access Realtime Translation • Amplification device, Captioning
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellikeys Adaptive Keyboard • Orbit Trackball Mouse • ergonomic chairs and workstations
Reading & Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen reader (<i>JAWS Screen Reader, Kurzweil 3000, NVDA Screen Reader, Dictation, Dragon Naturally Speaking</i>), Blackboard Ally • Text-to-speech (<i>Read&Write</i>)

3. ASL interpreter

4. Adaptive textbooks (Digital, audio books)
5. Peer-coaching/ tutoring/ notetaking assistance
6. Service Animals (Emotional Support Animals)

Collaboration Model: Secondary & Higher Ed.

Secondary Education

- Inviting guest speakers from Higher Ed for students' transition class
- Inviting the Office of Accessibility from local colleges to IEP meetings
- Preparing academic and nonacademic (use of technology, email, planner; managing finance; health and personal care, etc.) skills.

Higher Education

- Field trip (campus tour)
- Consistent and comprehensive support
- Parents/students meeting for evaluation and documentations to support the claim of having a disability

Discussion

- As students with disabilities move to higher education, they need to be proactive in seeking their own rights because service types, application procedures, and requirements for accommodation vary at each institution.
- Postsecondary institutions provide a wide range of accessibility services (assistive technology, sign language interpreter, Testing accommodation, recording of lectures, service animals, tutoring, notetaking assistance, adaptive textbook, housing, special parking, etc.), but the service varies depending on the institutions.
- In Kentucky, three institutions (Murray State University, Bluegrass Community & Technical College, and Northern Kentucky University) offers programs for students with intellectual disabilities.
- No institutions in KY provide services in the area of communication or social skills.
- This study was limited to publicly accessible online resources at public postsecondary institutions.

References

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