

MEET WITH THE DSS COUNSELOR

When visiting a college, arrange a meeting with the disabilities service coordinator on campus. Come prepared to have a successful interview with this individual.

Before you arrive on campus:

- Prepare to talk about yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, your disability, your dreams
- Develop a list of questions usually not covered in the college catalog
- Practice interviewing
- Prepare to answer the disability support counselor's questions clearly and comfortably
- Prepare to use this visit as an opportunity to help determine the appropriateness of the college as a possible final choice
- Prepare to take notes for future reference

Prepare your questions for the disability support counselor.

- What are the requirements for admission? Are they flexible?
- How many students with disabilities are on campus?
- What services does the college typically provide to students with disabilities? Who provides them?
- How long are services provided?
- Are remedial courses available on campus?
- Does the college provide remediation or support one-on-one or in a group setting?
- What kinds of academic adjustments and auxiliary aids and services does the college have available to students with disabilities?
- Will I be able to check out equipment and use it in my classes?

- Is free tutoring available on campus?
- What technology have students at the college used in the classroom?
- What strategies are provided for students who use adaptive technology?
Were they successful?
- What modifications have faculty and administrators been willing to make for students with disabilities on campus?
- Are there extra fees for special programs?

**Prepare to answer the disability services counselor's questions.
Practice your response to these questions with your parents, school counselor, or teacher.**

- Can you describe your educational background?
- Can you describe your disability?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses, in and outside the classroom?
- What adaptive equipment are you currently using?
- What training did you receive in using this adaptive equipment?
- Who provided your technical support?
- How did you communicate with your instructors about using your adaptive equipment in the classroom? How did they respond?
- What appropriate academic adjustments and auxiliary aids and services do you have to assist you for class, assignments, and exams?
- Explain how your accommodations have made you successful.

Excerpted from Virginia's College Guide for Students with Disabilities (2003 Edition).