

The Range of Learning Support Services on College Campuses

A Presentation for Parents and Students with Learning Differences


Topics Covered

- How do I prepare my child for college?
- How do I know what type of support my child needs?
- What is the difference between support services and a comprehensive program?
- What makes a good college visit?

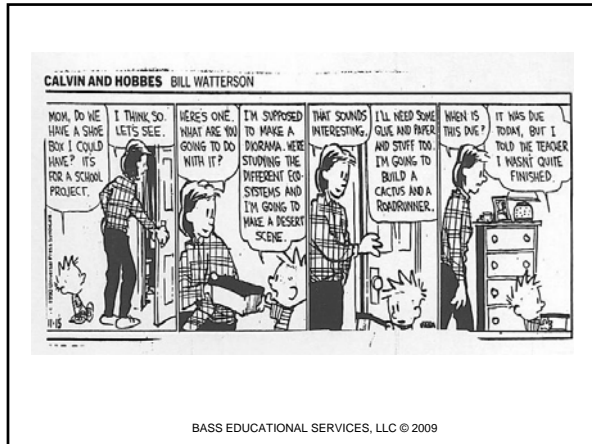
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Three Legged Stool

- Academic Ability
- Emotional Stability
- Independence



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Self-Advocacy and Independence

- Awareness
- Acceptance
- Life Skills
- Responsibility



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College Planning Timeline

- Begin researching colleges by second semester of junior year
- Create individual college files
- Visit colleges during spring break, summer
- Return for second visits in fall of senior year
- Register for SAT/ACT accommodations as early as possible

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SAT vs ACT

SAT

- Strategies based
- Inferential reading
- Points deducted for incorrect answer
- Writing test required
- Some score choice

ACT

- Knowledge based
- Literal reading
- No points deducted for incorrect answer
- Writing test optional
- All score choice

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Psychoeducational Testing


- Optimum Testing Cycle (grades 5,8,11)
 - Within 3 years for College
 - Within 5 years for SAT (ACT varies)
- Documentation requirements
 - WAIS-IV (WISC-IV may be accepted)
 - Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement
 - Specific rationale for math and foreign language exemption/substitution
 - List of accommodations for colleges

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Support Services and Programs

- Minimal Services
- Moderate Services
- Comprehensive Program
- Developmental Program

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Minimal Support Services


- Basic Accommodations available
- No professional learning specialist
- Need to be self-advocate
- No distraction reduced testing environment
- Peer tutors may be available

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Colleges with Minimal Support


Some examples are:

- George Mason University
- University of Richmond
- University of Mary Washington
- Bucknell University
- Davidson College

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Moderate Support Services

- Sensitivity to LD/ADHD
- Many accommodations offered
- Learning Center staffed by professional with degree in LD or psychology
- May advocate for student
- Student still needs to seek out assistance
- Distraction reduced testing environment, usually in the Support Center

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Moderate Support (continued)


- Peer or professional tutors
- Support groups and workshops
- Specialized summer programs
- Organizational and study skills assistance
- May schedule weekly appointments
- Drop-in assistance available
- Most services initiated by student

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Colleges with Moderate Support


Some examples are:

- University of Virginia
- James Madison University
- Hood College
- Goucher College
- American University

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Comprehensive Support Program

- Separate program for students with LD/ADHD
- Fee based program
- Students remain part of college community
- Full time director and several staff members
- May communicate directly with professors
- Advocate on behalf of students

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Comprehensive Program (continued)

- Distraction free testing environment in Support Center
- May have trained exam proctors
- Professional tutors
- Support groups and workshops
- Self-advocacy groups
- Many have social skills groups
- Specialized summer orientation programs

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Comprehensive Program (continued)


- Organizational and time management skills tutoring
- Will meet one-on-one with student
 - Once a week up to several times a week
 - 3 – 5 hours a week
- Will meet in small groups
 - Supplementary instruction (SI)
 - Subject-based study groups

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Comprehensive Programs


Some examples are:

- Curry College (MA)
- Lynchburg College
- West Virginia Wesleyan College
- Mitchell College (CT)
- McDaniel College (MD)

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Developmental Program


- Two year core curriculum within a 4 year university
- Originally created for students who were called "underachievers"
- Specially chosen professors
- Specific course offerings
- Structured, supportive environment
- Skills work is built into classroom schedule
- Lower GPA and SAT accepted

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Developmental Programs


Some examples are:

- University of Hartford (Hillyer College)
- Boston University (General Studies Program)
- Adelphi University (General Studies Program)
- Long Island University at CW Post

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College Visits

- Plan ahead – look for school days off
- Set up trips geographically
- Call in advance to make appointments for tours and information sessions
- Take notes and write down impressions
- Take pictures
- Visit the Learning Support Center

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College Visits (continued)


- Collect student newspapers, flyers,
- Read bulletin boards in dorms and student center
- Revisit the top two or three choices
- Make appointment with Director of Disability Services after acceptance

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Summary

- Question and Answer Period



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