

DETERMINING THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR A CHILD WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, ADHD, and ASPERGER'S

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Finding the right college for LD/ADHD students is no different than it is for any other student. There is no one school that is the perfect fit – for anyone. Rather, there are several schools that fit well. Like all students, LD/ADHD students must meet admission requirements for the schools to which they are applying. In many cases, LD/ADHD students exceed the requirements. However, what is most important for this population is the level and type of support services that are provided for them by the college. The level of support that is required for the student to succeed in college (which is determined by testing) is what will determine which college applications the student should pursue.

The best way for students and parents to gather the necessary information is to visit the school and meet with a staff member from the Office for Students with Disabilities. If it is not possible to meet on campus, then a phone conversation is advisable. Or, engage the services of an independent consultant who is familiar with the specific requirements of LD/ADHD students and has established relationships with personnel in these offices. In addition to questions about the college that the admissions officer can answer, a unique set of questions specific to LD/ADHD students must be answered.

LD Resources suggests some of the following 25 questions that will help a student and their parents determine if the support services provided by the college will be adequate to meet the student's needs.

1. Does your son or daughter qualify for a learning support service college program?
2. Have his/her high school courses prepared the student to successfully compete in college?
3. Are there special admission procedures?
4. Are there additional fees for the LD/ADHD support services program?
5. What kind of college (small/large) and location (urban/suburban/rural) would provide the best opportunity for academic success?
6. Is the learning support services program "specifically" directed toward the LD/ADHD student? Are there services available to handicapped students and the general student body?
7. How many students are enrolled in the program and what is the proportion of LD/ADHD students to the general student population?
8. When was the program started?
9. How long have the personnel been in the program?
10. Does the program have faculty and administrative support?
11. Who does the academic advising for the LD/ADHD student? Are the academic advisors (those persons who help the student select courses)

- familiar with the goals and procedures of the learning support services program and the general characteristics and needs of LD/ADHD students in particular?
12. Does the institution have course waivers (i.e.) foreign language requirements?
 13. Does the institution allow for housing flexibility including singles for freshmen with Asperger's?
 14. Are special courses required of LD/ADHD students (i.e. Skills Development, Self-Management)? Do they carry college credits? Can these credits be used toward graduation?
 15. Are there remedial or developmental courses available?
 16. Are students in this program required to remain in the program throughout college?
 17. Is counseling available and what kind (i.e.) personal, academic, career? Is it group or individual? Is it required or optional?
 18. Is there assistance available for improving social/interpersonal skills?
 19. Are there support groups available for the LD student?
 20. What kind of tutoring is available to the student?
 21. Are all textbooks available on tape?
 22. What kind of additional resources are available (i.e.) word processors, tape recorders, etc.
 23. Are any adaptive technologies available (i.e. Kurzweil, Dragon Speak, etc.)?
 24. Are students permitted to tape lectures?
 25. Is there a summer "pre-college" session available for entering freshmen?