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Assistive Technology: Checklist of Questions to Ask Colleges

General Access to Assistive Technology: As you consider different colleges you might want to attend, ask general questions about each university's assistive technology (AT) policies and programs.

General Access to Assistive Technology	Notes
After I receive permission to use AT • How do I communicate my AT accommodations to my professors? • Who will then coordinate my AT accommodations (during lectures, while doing assignments, and taking tests) between the professor and the disability office?	
Are there certain places on campus where AT tools are available? If so, how many are there? Where are they located? Are they available 24 hours a day and on weekends or are there limited hours? Do students need to sign up for time slots in advance?	
What **specific** resources do AT labs on campus provide? Make sure you ask specific questions about the types of screen reader applications, screen magnification applications, speech recognition applications, software-based writing tools, etc., that are available and check for compatibility with your laptop, desktop or other hand-held devices you use.	
Does the school maintain, update, and repair its assistive technology equipment on a regular basis, and if something goes wrong with these devices, how quickly are fixed?	
If I need training about how to use certain assistive technology tools, how is it delivered (e.g., formal group sessions, informal demonstrations)? Are reference manuals available? What about online tutorials? And will I be able to speak with other students who are also using AT tools to ask questions and troubleshoot problems?	

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Does the campus provide accessible computer stations and AT devices in other areas besides the AT labs, such as dormitories or general libraries?	
Will I be able to borrow equipment from an AT lab, library, or other location on campus?	
If I have a problem accessing school-related information and materials (such as teachers notes, links to articles, web pages with assignments, take-home exams), is there a person or office available to help me get what I need?	

Your Responsibilities and Rights to Use AT: In college you'll have to carry full responsibility for arranging all of your AT supports, not at all like the role you played in high school. Discuss the following questions with a disability services counselor on campus.

Your Responsibilities and Rights to Use AT	Notes
Must I meet specific requirements to use AT accommodations at this college? What documentation is required and when and to whom is it submitted? Do I need to describe how these or similar requested AT devices have enabled me to succeed in the past and will continue to help me complete required coursework at college? Will approval for access to AT resources need to be reauthorized and if so, at what points in time?	
Who is available on campus to help me figure out what AT tools I qualify to use and how quickly I can expect to get them? Is there someone whose responsibility it is to deal with assistive technology for students with LD?	

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Will I be allowed to use AT tools for exams? If so, would I be required to take exams independently in an AT lab or other setting? Would I need to make special proctoring arrangements when exams are taken with AT assistance or will the office of disability services make those arrangements for me?	
Will the college make print materials available to me in digitized electronic format, audio tape, or large print? If so, with whom do I need to speak to make this arrangement?	
Given my learning disability, is there a campus service for making video and multimedia content available to me?	
If I use screen-reading software, is the college web content (e.g., course registration software, library databases, class discussion boards, class notes, and homework assignments) compatible with my software?	
Will the college order and pay for AT devices that I want or need but which are not already available?	

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