



Campus Accessibility Considerations

It is recommended that prospective college students with physical disabilities visit each campus they are considering attending. The campus tour should be given by a member of the administration, not a student tour guide. While touring the campus and meeting with the Office of Disability Services, the following considerations should be addressed.

Campus Life

- ✓ Is the campus physically accessible to a student with mobility limitations or a student using a wheelchair?
- ✓ Is it possible to get from one class location to the next, using the accessible entrances, elevators, and ramps within the using transition time allotted?
- ✓ Are walkways cleared with enough width that a wheelchair could safely get through during inclement weather?
- ✓ Will priority be given to the pathways used by the student with the disability?
- ✓ Is the campus located in a region of the country that will make campus life particularly difficult due to inclement weather conditions?
- ✓ Can arrangements be made to assist with the transport of textbooks?
- ✓ Will scheduling priority be given to students with disabilities?
- ✓ Is the Health Center capable of addressing my medical or physical needs?
- ✓ Is the Health Center physically accessible to me? Would I be able to access the Health Center's services in an emergency?
- ✓ How far away is the local emergency department and hospital in the event of a medical emergency?
- ✓ Are their specialists nearby who can assist me if needed?
- ✓ Are buildings accessible via more than one entrance or elevator? Will I have a key, or assurance that this will always be unlocked?
- ✓ If there is only one accessible entrance, will I have access to school personnel that can immediately grant me access if I find this entrance locked or blocked (within minutes, not days)?
- ✓ Are there automatic doors on dorm and classroom buildings?
- ✓ Are the recreations areas accessible to me?
- ✓ If there is a pool, is there a lift into the pool? Do the lifeguards know how to operate the lift and other accessibility equipment?

Residential Life

- ✓ Are the residential dorms accessible?
- ✓ How are roommate arrangements made?
- ✓ Can priority be given for residence on an honors or quiet hall in order to accommodate for sleep needs due to fatigue?
- ✓ Are students with disabilities integrated into the residential areas, rather than being grouped together on one floor or location?
- ✓ Is there an accessible common area and restroom in all residential buildings?
- ✓ What is the culture of the campus? Could a student with a disability fit into that culture? If not, what can be done to eliminate some of those barriers/obstacles?
- ✓ Is there a predominant Greek system? Are sororities and fraternities accessible?
- ✓ Have arrangements been made for emergency evacuations of each building and residence?
- ✓ Have proper authorities (including RAs and security officers) been trained as to those procedures?
- ✓ Have RAs been trained appropriately?

Classroom Accommodations

- ✓ Are lecture halls, classrooms, and laboratories accessible?
- ✓ Is there a mandatory PE credit? If so, this should be adapted for inclusion, not automatically opted out of.
- ✓ Are professors aware of my needs? What arrangements can be made to inform them?
- ✓ It is my responsibility to request needed accommodations; each professor should indicate their willingness to make accommodations and be receptive and responsive to those requests.
- ✓ Is the academic 'playing field' leveled so that I may have equal opportunities for scholastic success, rather than unfair advantages or disadvantages due to my disability?

General

- ✓ Will there be an opportunity to pre-register for classes and be given priority when arranging course schedules?
- ✓ Will arrangements be made to provide training and in-servicing to applicable staff, faculty, and members of residence life?
- ✓ Will an orientation session be scheduled for the start of each semester for students with physical needs?
 - Should be done prior to start of semester.
 - To include an introduction of all resources available to students with disabilities (note takers, emergency contact people, etc).
 - Students should be given phone numbers (to be stored in their cell phones) for security and other immediate response personnel on campus.