

Are You Ready for the Responsibility?

**SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POSSESS
MANY OF THE SKILLS LISTED BELOW.**

HOW ABOUT YOU?

TAKE THE INVENTORY.

DISCOVER THE SKILLS AND ATTITUDES YOU NEED TO DEVELOP.

Evaluate your readiness for the responsibilities associated with college. Going to college is a major step in your life involving new responsibilities and independence. Below are some questions you need to ask yourself as you embark on your college career.

- Can I clearly explain my special talents and abilities?
- Can I describe my disability so that someone else understands my strengths and limitations?
- Do I have copies of the evaluations that document the current impact of my disability?
- Do I understand and can I discuss the content of these reports?
- Can I describe my disability history and explain the diagnosis?
- Can I explain how I learn and how I compensate in the areas where I have difficulty?
- Can I describe the types of academic adjustments and auxiliary aids and services appropriate for me in various classroom settings and in my living environment, if needed?
- In the past, have I used similar academic adjustments and auxiliary aids and services to those I need in college?

- Do I know where, how, and when to apply for disability services at college?
- Am I prepared (academically and socially) for the challenge college has to offer?
- Do I take regular college preparatory courses, modified courses, or individualized courses?
- Do I do the same assignments, participate in the same laboratory exercises, have the same opportunities to use a computer, and learn the same course material as everyone else?
- Am I ready to live away from home, to manage my finances, to take care of my health, and to manage my time?
- Do I seek assistance for academic and other problems when needed?
- Do I know how to advocate for myself?
- Do I accept that it might take me longer to graduate than my friends?
- Do I understand that I might have to study harder than my friends?
- Do I understand that college is a challenge and that dealing with temporary frustrations is part of being an ordinary college student?
- Do I know my long-term goals? Am I beginning this life-changing process with some career goals?
- Do I have some idea about how I want to earn a living?

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