

Arkansas Transition Services presents:



Preparing for College

Special guest speakers: Robyn Smith (University of Central Arkansas), Reed Claiborne (UA Little Rock), Jennifer Michaud (University of Arkansas), Ashlee Leavell (Arkansas Tech University)



This session will be recorded.

*Recording and slides will be emailed to participants.
Please put all questions in the chat box.*



Introduction

Post-secondary options for students with disabilities

What are the options? What are the goals?

Possibilities:

- Work
- Apprenticeships
- [Comprehensive Transition Programs](#)
- [Project Search](#)
- Other training opportunities
- Connect with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services



What is the role of the Disability Support Office?

**Making academics accessible so the
STUDENT has the opportunity to be
successful!**



How do we do this?

- Review individual accommodation requests
- Educate campus constituents about the DS process
- Advocate for specific students as needed
- Assist with general campus accessibility



Misperceptions about special education and higher education



Differences between IEPs and university accommodations

PROCESS	Kindergarten through High School	College
<i>Identification</i>	Schools responsible for identifying students	Students must self-identify*
<i>Documentation</i>	Schools responsible for testing students	Students must pay for their testing, if needed
<i>Services</i>	Schools responsible for any needed services School must provide whatever services will help student succeed in class, testing, and any school-sponsored activity School must provide individualized tutoring	Students must seek out services Student allowed only certain accommodations in college classroom and testing Students must seek out tutoring, if needed, and may be charged if the university does not provide tutoring for all students.

Differences between IEPs and university accommodations

PROCESS	Kindergarten through High School	College
<i>Communication</i>	Schools must communicate with parents at regular intervals re: student's progress	College not allowed to contact parents without student's permission*
<i>Accommodation arrangements</i>	School must develop formal plan and it is school's responsibility to track student	Student must make requests for accommodations. The student is responsible for much of the accommodation process (Making requests, discussion with professor/instructor) This is a collaborate effort*

Differences between IEPs and university accommodations

PROCESS	Kindergarten through High School	College
<i>Accommodation Differences</i>	Reduced assignments, (requiring student to submit less work than others))extended time on assignments, grading changes (counting daily work equal with semester tests) test format changes(take away 2 wrong answers and leave one right and one wrong answer) repeated chances to make a passing grade	No reduced assignments; no grading changes, no test changes other than <i>accommodation</i> (such as providing extended time or providing a test in large print or Braille)

Needs and Support at the Post-Secondary Level

- How does the disability impact the learning process?

- What is the barrier?



- How does the disability affect their living space?

- What is the barrier?



- How will medication or doctor visits be handled?



- Can they speak to how they learn best?



- Do they know/can they speak to strategies used in high school?



Skills needed to attend college with success



Study Skills



Time Management

Organizational Skills



Technology and Research Skills



Readiness to be treated as an adult

Other skills needed...



Self-Advocacy Skills



Academic Preparedness



Campus Resources

Students will have an advantage if they are able to:

- Understand their own situation
- Articulate and anticipate their needs
- Self-Advocate
- Recognize resources
- Believe in themselves
- Understand that every professor is different
- Be patient with the process



How can you better support your child or student?



Strategies from Arkansas Transition Services

- Ensure the student is involved in the transition planning process
 - Student-led iep meetings
 - [GSC App/SDLMI Project](#)
- [Parent involvement in secondary transition process](#)
- [Summary of Performance](#)
- Contacting support office in your senior year

Practice talking to professor about needs

- Connect with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
- [College Bound Arkansas](#) (ATS)



Literacy and Numeracy Supports

You already have access to these tools!

1) Understand the reading accommodation needs of each student (including students receiving special education services)

2) Provide students with the tools necessary to handle the widest range of literacy tasks and to access grade-level text

3) Make STEM/Math accessible across the curriculum



- Educators: universalpar.com
- Students: startpar.com



Read&Write

- Extension
- Read&Write iOS App



Equatio

- Extension
- Mathspace: equatio.texthelp.com



<http://text.help/Arkansas>

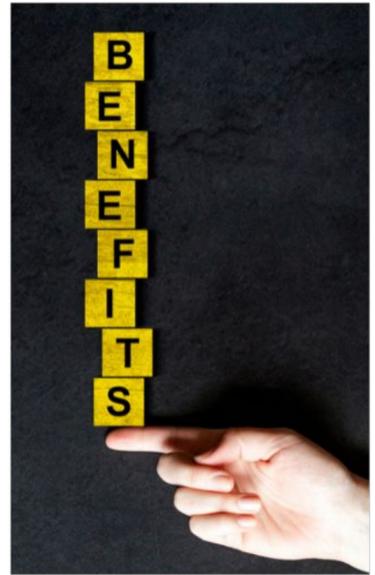
Strategies from Higher Education

- Know that accommodations are not retroactive
- Get informed about college programs at some universities
 - [TRIO](#)
 - [EMPOWER](#) ([click here](#) for other programs)
- Be prepared to tell your “disability story”



Benefits of Meeting with Disability Support Services Early

- Become aware of services offered by Disability Services
- Possibility of arranging services/accommodations early
- Opportunity to find campus services that collaborate together
- Can provide documentation needed
- Opportunity to get acquainted with location of services are on campus
- Empowers students to be part of the transition process
- Allows college to encourage the use of accommodations for ACT, SAT



Tips and Advice

- Know your instructor's name and help them remember your name
- Know your instructor's office hours and office location
- Know the logistics of how your accommodation will be provided ahead of time
- Know drop dates and/or withdrawal dates
- Know what funding you receive (scholarships, third party funding, grants, etc.)
- Walk through your schedule of classes on campus before the first day
- Compare anticipated experiences to the typical experiences of college students - they could be very similar

Presenter Contact Information

ARKANSAS TRANSITION SERVICES:

Bonnie Boaz: bonnie.boaz@ade.arkansas.gov

Carrie Tuttle: carrie.tuttle@archford.org



INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES:

Arkansas Tech: www.atu.edu/disabilities/index.php

UA Little Rock: www.ualr.edu/disability

UA Fayetteville: <https://cea.uark.edu/>

Choosing College as the Post-School option for students with disabilities

Possibilities:

- 4 year college
- 2 year community college
- [Comprehensive Transition Programs](#)



4 year vs. 2 year?

What are the main differences?



2-Year Colleges (Community & Technical Colleges)

- **Program Length:** Typically 2 years for an associate degree, or shorter for certificates.
 - **Degrees Offered:** Associate degrees (AA, AS, AAS), technical certificates, and workforce training.
 - **Cost:** Generally lower tuition than 4-year colleges.
 - **Class Size:** Smaller classes with more direct instructor interaction.
 - **Focus:** Career training, technical skills, or preparation for transfer to a 4-year university.
 - **Transfer Opportunities:** Many 2-year colleges have articulation agreements with Arkansas universities, making it easier to transfer credits.
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- **Examples:**
 - University of Arkansas-Pulaski Technical College (UA-PTC)
 - NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)
 - Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASU-Beebe)



4-Year Colleges & Universities

- **Program Length:** 4+ years for a bachelor's degree (longer for graduate programs).
- **Degrees Offered:** Bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.
- **Cost:** Higher tuition, but more scholarship and financial aid opportunities.
- **Campus Life:** Offers dorms, sports, and extracurricular activities.
- **Career Opportunities:** Often required for higher-level careers; more research and internship options.

- **Examples:**

- University of Arkansas (U of A) – Fayetteville
- Arkansas State University (ASU) – Jonesboro
- University of Central Arkansas (UCA) – Conway



Comprehensive Transition Programs

- Created by The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA)
- Type of college program for students with intellectual disabilities seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institute of higher education in order to prepare for gainful employment
- Provides opportunities to participate in coursework and activities with students without disabilities
- Attendees of these programs can be eligible for federal aid
- Separate program fees in addition to tuition of college



6 Programs in Arkansas



For a complete list of programs in Arkansas, click here:

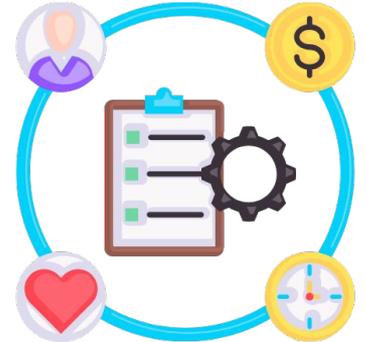
[https://thinkcollege.net/college-search?f\[0\]=tc_state_province%3AArkansas](https://thinkcollege.net/college-search?f[0]=tc_state_province%3AArkansas)

- [3D - The University of Arkansas - Pulaski Technical College, Little Rock](#)
- [A.T.L.A.S. - ASU Jonesboro](#)
- [Academic and Career Achievement Program, South Arkansas College, El Dorado](#)
- [EMPOWER, Fayetteville, U of A](#)
- [Helping Our Wolves Learn \(HOWL\) - ASU Jonesboro](#)
- [Launch, Lifestyles in partnership with U of A, Fayetteville](#)

Parent Resources

[Sample of considerations for parents for CTP programs](#)

[Tips for Parents of Students Transitioning to College](#)



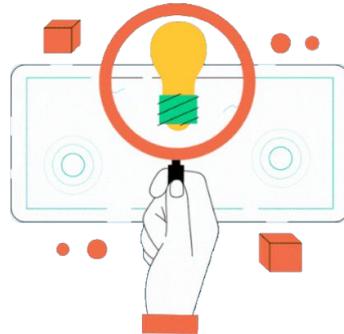
For more information on CTPs:

- https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/CTP%20slides_Jan%202020.pdf



Important programs to look into when looking at colleges

- Disability Supports Offices
- TRIO programs
- ASCEND: UCA's Autism Program
- [Autism Support Program](#): University of Arkansas (FAY)



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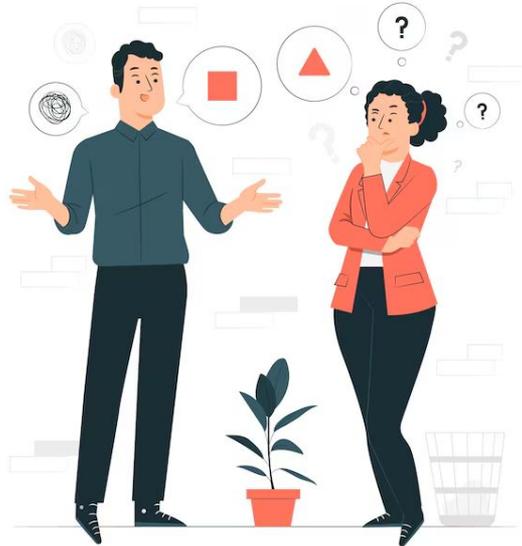


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 - [SOP Tip Sheet](#)
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Sample Conversation with a Professor

- **Student (Alex)** – A college student with a disability.
- **Professor (Dr. Smith)** – A supportive college professor.

Setting: Dr. Smith's office during office hours.



A simple conversation...



Alex: *[Knocks on the door] Hi, Dr. Smith. Do you have a moment?*

Dr. Smith: Of course, Alex! Come in. How can I help you?

Alex: *I wanted to talk about accommodations for your class. I have a documented disability, and I receive support through the college's disability services office.*

Dr. Smith: I appreciate you letting me know. What accommodations do you need?

Alex: *According to my accommodation letter, I'm approved for extended test time and access to class notes. Sometimes I also need to record lectures to help with comprehension.*

Dr. Smith: That sounds reasonable. Do you have the official accommodation letter from the disability office?

Alex: *Yes, I have a copy right here. [Hands over the letter]*

Dr. Smith: Great, I'll make a note of this. For extended test time, do you prefer to take exams in the testing center, or would you rather arrange something else?

Alex: *The testing center works best for me.*

Dr. Smith: That's totally fine. And for class notes, do you have a notetaker, or would you like access to my lecture slides?

Alex: *If I could get access to the slides, that would be really helpful.*

Dr. Smith: Absolutely. I'll upload them to our course website after each class. If anything else comes up, feel free to reach out. I want to make sure you have what you need to succeed.

Alex: *Thank you, Dr. Smith. I really appreciate your support.*

Dr. Smith: Of course, Alex. I'm happy to help.



College Bound Registration



arkansas
Transition
services



WHO can attend?

- Upcoming juniors/seniors with disabilities
- Graduating seniors with disabilities
- Parents and professionals of students attending CBA



WHAT do sessions include?

Information on supports available at college and how to get them, self-advocacy, assistive technology, mental health awareness, organization/time management skills, study skills and financial aid!



HOW do I register?

On the Arkansas Transition Services website or at:
[tinyurl.com/collegeboundarkansas!](https://tinyurl.com/collegeboundarkansas)



WHERE & WHEN will it be held?

June 2-4, 2025 on the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) campus!!



WHY is it important?

Making decisions about post-secondary education can be overwhelming! College Bound Arkansas can help ease some of these feelings by providing information and the opportunity to ask questions of professionals who have knowledge and experience. Students stay in UCA dorms, helping them have a better understanding of what to expect of campus life. They are placed on teams with peers and mentored by college students currently using supports at the college level. Multiple opportunities are provided to eat together, work together, and socialize during fun activities. Everyone who attends is sure to benefit! Just read the testimonials below...



"Very informative and helpful. Definitely helped me in figuring out that there is help out there!"

"It was wonderful for an educator to help with students preparing for post high school life!"



Any Questions?



What did we miss?

<https://forms.gle/Lt2ZbCZED8B4o8by6>



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UA Little Rock: www.ualr.edu/disability

UA Fayetteville: <https://cea.uark.edu/>

UCA Conway: <https://uca.edu/oars/>