

TOP TEN TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

- 1. Plan early.** Studies show that students who plan for college academically, financially and personally are more likely to succeed than those who do not. Review the *College Countdown Checklist* on this site for some ideas about what you need to do.
- 2. Know your direction.** Research your career interests and possible majors before applying to post-secondary education. Your high school or vocational rehabilitation counselor can help you get career interest/aptitude testing.
- 3. Develop a long-term plan.** Once you have determined your career interests, consider what it will take to achieve your goals. What degrees or licenses are required for an entry level position? How long will preparation take? What is the estimated cost of your total education? Develop an alternative plan. If your goal cannot be achieved, have another plan in mind.
- 4. Develop a short-term plan.** Consider what you'll need to do to achieve your long-term goals. Which institutions offer the appropriate coursework? What services are available to you with in each institution's disability services? What sources of funding are available? Do you have the prerequisite skills to be admitted? What are your personal preferences concerning location of the school/university, size of campus, extracurricular activity offerings, and student residence accommodations?
- 5. Make a match.** Which institutions most closely meet your short-term and long-term plans?
- 6. Set up a file for important documents.** Keep separate, clearly labeled folders with information (e.g. copies of financial aid and school applications; a set of documents including your up-to-date IEP, transition plan, ability/achievement testing reports, reports from physicians/therapists and counselors, vocational rehabilitation information transcripts, correspondence).
- 7. Mark a calendar with important deadlines and key dates.** Be sure to meet them!
- 8. Assemble your support team.** Make early contact with the ADA/Special Services person at the institution you plan to attend. Visit the campus with your family and get to know the residence hall personnel, financial aid counselor, etc. Make sure your institutional special service provider, vocational rehabilitation counselor, transition case manager, physician/therapist and/or other service providers know each other.
- 9. Have your financial plan in place before registration.** This includes funding for assistive technology, personal services (e.g. personal attendant, interpreter), school tuition and fees, books, transportation costs and other special needs.
- 10. Consider post-secondary education as an exciting new adventure. Have fun and work hard!**

