

COLLEGE COUNTDOWN CHECKLIST

PRE-HIGH SCHOOL

- Remediate and/or compensate for basic skill deficits.
- Develop an understanding of your disability and how it affects learning.
- Identify skills for academic independence (e.g. time management, note taking, memorization, test taking)
- Participate in extra-curricular activities (e.g. music, clubs, organizations, sports).
- Develop a list of career interests

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Develop self-advocacy skills.
- Strengthen understanding of your disability and how it affects learning.
- Develop skills for academic independence.
- Participate in volunteer work experiences and extra-curricular activities.
- Explore career options (e.g. interest inventories, career fairs, job shadows)
- Investigate auxiliary aids, external services, and assistive technology tools. (e.g. interpreter, personal attendant, books on tape, speech to text software, screen reading software).
- Incorporate transition goals into IEP.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Strengthen self-advocacy skills.
- Articulate/verbalize your disability and how it affects learning.
- Strengthen skills for academic independence.
- Pursue references in paid work experiences and /or extra-curricular activities.
- Identify career interests and aptitudes.
- Identify needed auxiliary aids, external services, and assistive technology tools.
- Take the PSAT with or without accommodations.
- Incorporate transition goals into IEP.



JUNIOR YEAR

- Refine self-advocacy skills.
- Refine skills for academic independence.
- Participate in paid work experiences and/or extra-curricular activities.
- Review career interests and aptitudes. If necessary, arrange for an additional career assessment or inventory.
- Learn how to access/coordinate auxiliary aids, external services, and assistive technology tools.
- Take the SAT/ACT test(s). If you need them, be sure to arrange accommodations in advance.
- Set-up a file for important documents.
- Check your program against general education requirements.
- Continue with math and science courses.
- Attend post-secondary school fairs. Collect information. Begin to identify possible schools and majors.
- Apply for external services/supports (e.g. SD State Library, Recordings for Blind and Dyslexic, SD Vocational Rehabilitation, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired).
- Incorporate transition goals into IEP.

SENIOR YEAR

Fall Term

- Review pre-high school through junior year checklist items and focus on any areas of weakness or lack of preparation.
- Check program against general education requirements.
- Continue with math and science courses.
- Enroll in college pre/study skills courses.
- Review IEP with your high school multi-disciplinary team. Make sure your testing, documentation, accommodations, and transition goals are up-to-date.
- Retake SAT/ACT test(s) if necessary. If you need them, be sure to arrange accommodations in advance.
- Set-up a file for important post-secondary school documents.
- Initiate post-secondary school application process including financial aid applications.

Spring Term

- Select and accept admission offer from your preferred school.
- Visit campus or attend a scheduled campus preview day. Meet with all appropriate personnel. At this time, it is especially important to register with the Disability Services/ADA office. Register earlier if possible.
- Develop a financial plan. Return financial aid notice.
- Inform residence hall staff if you have special room needs.
- Make sure all external services and supports are in place.
- Schedule appropriate placement exams. If needed, identify testing accommodations.
- Confirm your financial aid award. Find out when award checks are distributed.

Summer

- Celebrate your graduation!
- Attend new student orientation day(s) sponsored by your post-secondary school.
- Revisit the Disability Services/ADA office.
- If you have a roommate, introduce yourself via mail, e-mail, or phone.
- If you need taped texts, it is extremely important to arrange taping with the state library as soon as possible. If you need help, contact the Disability Services/ADA provider.