


# Tips for a Successful Transition to College



EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

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Cutting Edge Program, Edgewood College

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## Multiple Postsecondary Options

- > Transition Program
- > Day Services
- > Employment
- > College
- > Combination of the above
- > Not all are for everyone, and may change over a lifespan



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## Benefits of College

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What might be some benefits of going to College?

- 1 • Career Readiness
- 2 • Social & Professional Development
- 3 • Self-Determination
- 4 • Independent Living Skills
- 5 • Civic Engagement
- 6 • Communication Skills
- 7 • Realization of Talents & Passions
- 8 • New Perspectives
- 9 • Sense of Accomplishment
- 10 • Time Management Skills

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## Who Goes to College?

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## Who Goes to College?

- History of Movement
  - Efforts increased since 2008 with the passage of HEOA (Higher Education Opportunity Act)
  - HEOA includes a defined set of services and activities which make up a CTP (Comprehensive Transition Program) for students with intellectual disabilities as a pathway to employment
  - Eligible students attending CTPs therefore may be able to receive federal financial aid
  - Waives admission/matriculation requirements
  - Funded pilot postsecondary programs

[Rethinking College Video](#)

[Source: \(Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability\)](#)




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# The Possibility of College

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## The Possibility of College

For the parent/guardian/teacher/case manager/support person...

- Does the student want to go to college?
- Is the student motivated to put in the work?
- Does the student have needs that could be supported at college? (medical, behavioral, emotional, etc.)
- Does the student have a support system at home that is on board?
- What kind of financial commitment is possible for this family?
- Will a college education and/or experience assist in the achievement of the student's life goals?
- [Think College WE CAN Series](#)



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ACTIVITY TIME!!

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## The Possibility of College

### For the student...

- Beach ball game!
- Questions to ask and ponder:
  - Why would you like to go to college?
  - What would you look for in a college or program?
  - What would you study in college?
  - How would you make friends in college?
  - What supports would college provide?
  - Where would you live while in college?
  - What would you like to do as a job?
  - Can you work while in college?
  - How do you pay for college?
  - How do you get into college?
- What skills do you gain by going to college?
- What would you like to learn in college?
- How would you get a job after college?
- Will it be nerve-wrecking to go to college?
- Will it be difficult living away from my parents?
- What would you be excited about if you attended college?
- What kind of activities can I do besides going to class?
- Are there clubs or student organizations I could join?
- Where would I eat on campus?
- What are some transportation options in college?

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## Differences Between High School and College

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## Differences between high school and college

### High School

- Set schedule – Every day is basically the same.
- Limited classes to choose from.
- You live at home and typically have less independence and responsibility.
- Longer classes and time spent in school each day.
- Attendance is mandatory.
- Teachers are there to teach, goal of helping students to grow up and learn to take on the responsibility they'll have after high school.

### College

- Customized schedule – Every day of the week could look different.
- Wider variety of classes to choose from.
- More independence and responsibility than in high school. You can live away from family (laundry, book purchase, nutrition choices). You decide which classes you want to take, when you want to schedule those classes, when you eat, what you eat, when you hang out with friends.
- Spend less time in class – 3-4 hours a day – more unscheduled time to spend how you think is best.
- Attendance is up to you but could affect our grade if too many missed classes. It's very difficult to do well in a class if you never show up.
- Professors have an academic function. They assume that students will take responsibility for doing homework, remembering quiz dates, etc.

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# Preparing for College

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### Preparing Early

- Introduce the idea early to the student's team
  - Parents may need to bring information to the table if team is unfamiliar with college programs
  - College programs are almost always willing to take calls or send materials prior to applying
- Write it into the IEP so goals can be set, curriculum can be planned, and progress can be monitored (especially if seeking a degree)
  - Option to check in with a college readiness assessment – [Example](#)
  - [College Readiness IEP Goals](#)
- Advocate, advocate, advocate!
- Connect with funding sources early; think about saving early.
  - SSI
  - DVR
  - IRIS/Family Care
  - ABL Account

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### Social & Emotional Independence

*Preparing Your Son Or Daughter for College: Suggestions for Parents of Children with Intellectual Disability*

- Has the student spent a night away from home? A week? More?
- Has the student spent a time away from parents/guardians?
- Has the student been able to interact with peers independently?
- Has the student been able to resolve small conflicts independently?
- Does the student respect people of diverse backgrounds?

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## Daily Living Skills

- Does the student shower without prompts?
- Does the student manage their own personal hygiene independently? (shaving, brushing teeth, applying deodorant)
- Does the student choose appropriate clothing (for weather and situation)?
- Does the student clean their room/personal space?
- Has the student ever done their own laundry?
- Is the student able to take their medications independently?
- Is the student able to follow a schedule?




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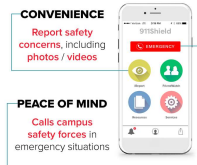
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## Safety Skills

- Does the student exhibit safe behavior towards themselves and others?
- Can the student identify an unsafe situation?
- Will the student seek help for themselves in unsafe situations?
- Can the student learn campus safety resources, and seek them out when needed?




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## Self Awareness & Self Determination

- Does the student understand their disability and how it affects them?
- Does the student know the academic accommodations that they need?
- Does the student have goals that they want to work towards?
- Will the student speak up when they are feeling unsafe?
- Does the student know what to do when they are stressed?




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# College Search

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## College Search

- Traditional 2 Year or Technical College
- Traditional 4 Year College/University
- College Programs for Individuals with Disabilities
  - Factors to Consider:
    - Comprehensive Transition Programs
      - Pell Grants Available
    - Inclusive vs. Students w/ Disabilities Only
    - Specific Disabilities
    - Program Length
    - Housing Options
- [To Compare Programs, visit Think College](#)




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## College Search Resources

- [Conducting a College Search: Questions to Ask College Programs](#)
- [A Self Advocate's Guide to Choosing a Post Secondary Program](#)

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# Can I Afford College?

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**Can I Afford College?**

- Financial Aid for Comprehensive Transition Programs (CTP)
- IRIS
- DVR
- ABLE Account
- Scholarships
  - From campus or program, local/high school, Think College, Ruby's Rainbow, etc.
- <https://thinkcollege.net/resources/innovation-exchange/paying-for-college>




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# College Admissions Process

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## College Planning Checklist

Junior Year		Senior Year	
Throughout the Year	Summer	Fall/Winter	Spring/Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Explore potential college campuses. Visit websites and attend college/transition fairs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin asking for letters of recommendation. Teachers, counselors and coaches are great resources (not a family member).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin thinking about your application essay.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Register for college campus tours.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Research admissions requirements for colleges you are interested in.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review priority dates and deadlines for admissions.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin drafting application essays.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tour Colleges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your high school counselor/case manager.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gather application materials. Include transcripts, letters of recommendation, photo and essay.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit applications.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Decide which college or university you will attend next fall.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Watch your email for campus updates.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make a housing decision (if applicable).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Watch your email for campus updates.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Send final grades from your senior year to the campus you are attending.</li> </ul>

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## Admissions Process Example

### Cutting Edge Program's Recommended Steps

- Attend an Open House if available or Tour Campus & Meet Staff/Students
- Register for Pre-College Program (optional)
- Apply Online (one year in advance)

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## Application Materials (for Cutting Edge)

- Online Application
- Official Transcripts
- Letter of Recommendation (not a family member)
- Essay – "Why I Want to Go to College"
- Current IEP & Re-Evaluation
- Recent Headshot
- Application Fee – Paid Online
- The campus Admissions Coordinators will let you know your application status & next steps

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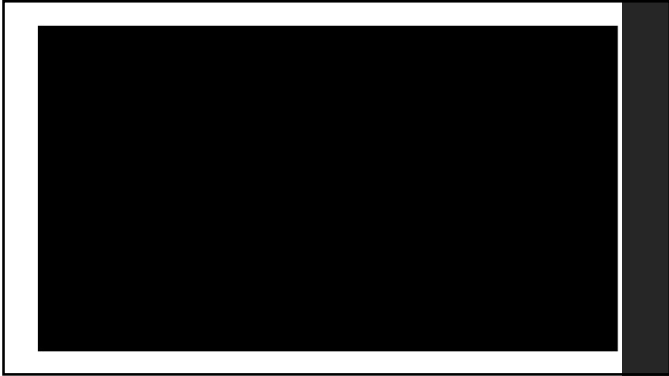
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### Website Resources

- [Think College Family Resources](#)
- [Colleges in Wisconsin who specialize in serving students intellectual and developmental disabilities](#)
- [Rethinking College Video](#)
- [\(Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability\)](#)
- [Think College WE CAN Series](#)
- [College Readiness IEP Goals](#)
- [Preparing Your Son Or Daughter for College: Suggestions for Parents of Children with Intellectual Disability](#)
- [To Compare Programs, visit Think College](#)
- [Conducting a College Search: Questions to Ask College Programs](#)
- [A Self Advocate's Guide to Choosing a Post Secondary Program](#)
- [Paying for College](#)



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Questions?

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