

Questions to ask Disability Resource Centers

School: _____ Person contacted: _____

1. Is there a separate admissions process for students with learning disabilities?
2. What documentation is required? Are accommodation determinations based on the high school IEP recommendations?
3. Is there a separate learning disabilities program?
4. Are there selective criteria for admission to the learning disabilities program?
5. Is there a separate fee for enhanced learning disabilities services?
6. How many students with learning disabilities do you serve?
7. What is your graduation rate for all freshmen? For students with learning disabilities?
8. What is your graduation rate for all students? For students with learning disabilities?
9. Does your institution offer remedial and/or developmental courses for credit towards graduation?
10. Does your institution offer substitutions for foreign language or math courses? If so, what documentation is required? What is the process?
11. Do you ever offer waivers? Under what circumstances?
12. Do you have staff members trained in the area of learning disabilities?
13. What is the counselor/student ratio?
14. How long does a student wait to get in to see a counselor? A day? A week?
15. How do you handle emergencies? Are there walk-in hours?
16. How are testing accommodations handled? If I qualify to take my exams with extended time how much time can I have? Where do I take the test? What if my exam is in the evening and your office is closed? If I need a distraction-free space will I always get it?

17. What services do you offer?

Tape recorders Alternative forms of testing Notetaker Priority registration

Option to tape lectures Extended time on exams Reading machines Study groups

Typing services Computer availability Taped textbooks Support groups

Distraction-free space Calculator during exams Other (describe) _____

18. Do you offer tutoring? Yes No If so, is it offered by: Peer tutor Paraprofessional

Learning disabilities specialist Faculty member Graduate assistant

19. Are tutors trained to work with students with learning disabilities?

20. Is there a fee for tutoring?

21. Do you offer career planning? Can graduates use career services?

22. Does the academic adviser work in tandem with the learning disabilities specialist?

23. Do you offer study skills and/or learning strategies courses? Are they offered for credit?

24. What is the climate on your campus for students with learning disabilities?

25. Do you expect the services that you are telling me about today to all be there in the future?

26. Are there regular workshops for faculty members about working with students with learning disabilities?

27. How many complaints do you get from students about faculty or staff members in a year? How are they handled?

28. Does your campus have an ADA/504 compliance officer?

29. Have any lawsuits or OCR complaints been filed against your campus?

30. Is there strong support from the faculty members and administration for this program?

(Adapted from Brinckerhoff, L.C., McGuire, J.M., & Shaw, S F. (2002). Appendix 2.6. Questions to ask during the college search. In *Postsecondary education and transition for college students with learning disabilities* (2nd ed.). Austin, TX: PRO-ED.