

State Services of the Blind

Senior Year of Transition Timeline

Senior Year Tasks

- **August**
 - Meet with your guidance counselor early in the fall to discuss your post school plans. Invite your guidance & SSB counselor, and other community partners to annual IEP meeting.
 - Plan to visit college/training campuses early in the year. Take your transition portfolio with you on college/training program visits to share with disability service providers, if appropriate.
 - Compare the various colleges and think about living in the campus community (consider housing, social activities, classrooms, disability services, leisure activities, athletic activities, comfort level with support services, etc.). Develop a comparative checklist of all of the colleges you are considering.
 - Continue to develop your self-advocacy skills and study skills.
 - Role-play college/training program interviews with guidance counselors, family members, and teachers.

- **September**

- Take needed college/training program placement tests and SAT or ACT tests again as needed.
- Meet with your SSB counselor to review community support services available to you while in college and obtain information about state and national organizations.
- Apply to two or more of your preferred colleges/training programs.
- Prepare your applications carefully, paying close attention to the instructions and deadlines. Be neat and be accurate on your application forms.
- Create a checklist of application deadlines and stick to it. Deadlines not waived for people with disabilities.
- Notify your SSB about your college decisions. Keep your counselor informed of dates and college requirements.

- **October**

- Submit documentation to the disability services office at the postsecondary schools or colleges that you have chosen and follow up to ensure your documentation meets the school's guidelines.

- Contact the college office of student support services to discuss your specific needs. If possible, obtain recommendations of classes to take.
- Make an appointment with your SSB counselor to refer you to an SSB assistive technology specialist to evaluate your computer skills and determine your college readiness.
- Finalize your transition portfolio so that it contains at least the following:
 - Copies of your psychological and educational evaluations
 - Transcripts
 - ACT or SAT scores
 - Your current or latest IEP
 - Your medical records (if appropriate)
 - A writing sample or other work samples related to your area of interest
 - Your letters of recommendation from teachers and employers
 - The current list of academic accommodations and services you may need in college/training program (be sure to include assistive technologies)
 - Letters to college admissions and service providers requesting a visit
- Apply for grants and scholarships.

- **November**

- After the assistive technology evaluation and in consideration of everything the counselor has learned about you and your learning needs, an adjustment to blindness facility may be recommended. You can start attending right after graduation.
- Prepare to stop using academic adjustments for the remainder of the school year that would not be provided in postsecondary schools or colleges such as: unlimited time, open book tests, clarification of test questions, word banks, shorter tests, modified tests, limited choices, etc...

- **December**

- Fill out FAFSA and apply for grants and scholarships.
- Call and ask if you can register for fall classes, if possible, during early registration.
- Work with your SSB counselor to get a summer job, preferably related to your college degree interest.
- Start a discussion with your SSB counselor about developing an IPE – Individualized Plan for Employment. In it will be your job goal, the school you will attend, the services SSB can provide, your responsibilities as a student receiving some funding

from SSB, and other items you may need to be a successful student and a job ready graduate.

- **January**

- Participate in orientation classes for new students and parents.

- **February**

- Contact the Disability Services Office and college professors and discuss your accommodation needs. Obtain textbook lists, including correct edition numbers, for the fall semester.

- **March**

- Apply for reduced fare cards for transportation systems in and around campus.
- Ask your O&M instructor to take you to your college for a general orientation to the campus. This is not always possible for the O&M instructor to do.

- **April**

- Place braille or tape orders for fall semester as early in the summer as possible.
- Make certain your technology is in place for fall. Work with your SSB counselor on this.

- **May**
 - Have at least one membership with a digital book source (Learning Ally, Bookshare etc...) in place for post secondary school.

- **Summer**
 - If necessary, attend Adjustment to Blindness training – practice with your technology to insure speed and competence.
 - Practice traveling to your classes.
 - Locate the Career Services Office on campus. Learn more about job fairs, interview days with corporations and additional career related information.
 - Work at a paid or a volunteer job.
 - Have your booklist to your SSB counselor for payment authorization.
 - Keep evaluating your career interests.