



Teacher Tips for Working with Students Attending Inclusive Higher Education Programs

In recent years, the options for postsecondary education have expanded greatly for students with intellectual disability. Undoubtedly, teachers play an essential role in preparing students for postsecondary education. Below are some tips on how to best prepare students for inclusive higher education programs.

Necessary Skills

- Teach self-advocacy skills
 - E.g. How to request for academic accommodations and discuss them with professors
- Prioritize the student's goals
 - E.g. Help students develop realistic goals that they can achieve and align with their interests
- Have students make choices on their own
 - E.g. Have students decide which skills they want to work on
- Teach technology skills
 - How to use online course management systems
 - How to use a smart phone
 - How to communicate via email
- Practice soft skills
 - E.g. Differentiating between informal conversations with friends and formal conversations with employers or professors

Assessments and Supports

- Use informal and formal assessments to gauge post-secondary education interest
- Use assessments for self-determination, workplace skills, and independent living skills
- Use visual schedules, timers, and calendar reminders to practice time management skills

Exploration Opportunities

- Have students make a campus visit
 - Open houses
 - Campus visits can be arranged at almost any time for prospective students
 - Set up meetings with staff members at the office of disability services
- Help students make the connection between their interests and careers
 - Explore the related skills to jobs of interest



- Explore related jobs in a field (E.g. If a student wants to be an actor, what are some other options related to their interest in becoming an actor if that does not work out?)
- Talk with students about career goals and interests
- Offer job shadowing and internship experiences during high school
 - These help students to gauge their interest in a job and to practice skill sets related to that job.

Last updated April 16, 2020