



### TEACHER TIPS

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

- Teach self-advocacy skills in high school
  - Ex. How to request academic accommodations
- Make it about the student
  - Help students develop realistic goals that they can achieve and are interested in
- Have students make choices on their own
  - Ex. Have students decide which skills they want to work on
- Have students make a campus visit
  - Open houses
  - Campus visits can be arranged at almost any time for prospective students
- Use informal and formal assessments to gauge postsecondary education interest
- Use assessments in the areas of self-determination, workplace skills, and independent living skills
- Help students make the connection between their interests and careers
  - Talk with students about career goals and interests
  - Explore the related skills to jobs of interest
  - Explore related jobs in a field
    - Ex. If a student wants to be an astronaut, what are some other options related to their interest in becoming an astronaut if that does not work out
- Use visual schedules, timers, and calendar reminders to help students practice time management skills
- Offer job shadowing and internship experiences during high school
  - This helps students gauge their interest in a job and practice skill sets related to that job
- Being fluent with technology
  - Many postsecondary programs use online course management systems
  - Using a smart phone
- Practice soft skills
  - Ex. Initiating and maintaining appropriate conversation
    - Differentiating between informal conversations with friends and formal conversations with employers or professors