Post Secondary Education:

What is post-secondary education and training:

Post means after and secondary school is high school. Therefore, post-secondary education and training is the continuation of education after high school. In the past, young people with disabilities were often told that post-secondary education and training were not for them. That is changing. There are laws you should know about that are meant to help people with disabilities get the education and training that they need after high school.

The laws that have to do with post secondary education and training are Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. These are important laws that support the rights of people with disabilities to participate in post secondary education and training programs. Basically, Section 504 states that post secondary institutions cannot deny a person access to their programs because he/she has a disability. The (ADA) says that people with disabilities must be able to use all public programs and services. The ADA also says that programs must make information about their programs accessible.

Steps to Link with Disability Services at College:

It is a good idea to research, visit and compare colleges, vocational schools and apprenticeships before committing to one. Remember to utilize resources at your school when researching potential schools. There could be guidance counselors, transition counselors, vocational rehabilitation, resource teachers and other students. After comparing services at the schools you are interested in pursuing, be sure to make a visit to the school. You will need to set up an appointment with both the Students with Disabilities Services Department along with the
Admissions Department at the schools you are interested in visiting. These visits should take place during your junior year in High School and no later than the first semester of your senior year in high school. In addition, you will be required to take either the SAT or ACT for admission to post secondary colleges/ university programs. Through your High school guidance department you should apply for extended time (with proper documentation) on the PSAT and SAT. Typically you will take the PSAT during your sophomore year of high school and the SAT/ACT during your junior year. Be sure to make an appointment to fill out the proper form with your High School guidance counselor and the head of your Special Education department at least six weeks in advance of the scheduled date for the exam.

Because ADA guarantees accessibility of programs, all schools will offer services but some may charge an added fee for some or even all of those services. An important difference between the services and supports you receive in high school (the things described in your IEP) and the supports that post secondary schools are required to provide is that you must apply and be found eligible for the supports for supports in post secondary schools. It is your responsibility to research and know about what is offered so that you can ask for assistance if you feel that you need it as you continue your education. In some cases, if you have applied for Voc. Rehab. Services and have been accepted, some fees may be paid by VR. The website [www.insource.org](http://www.insource.org) has listings of Indiana colleges and universities with special needs programs/services available. Additionally, you will find contact names, phone numbers, and email address of these departments to obtain additional information regarding services that are offered.

Once you have applied and received your letter of acceptance, the following steps should be taken:

1. Contact the Disability Services department at your school and set an appointment well before the start of your school
2. Take current copies (Professional documentation) of Psychological testing, IEP and written medical information from your doctor (less than 3 years old)
3. Advocate for yourself
4. The accommodations discussed are not meant to give students with disabilities an advantage over other students, they attempt to level the playing field.

The following is contact information for area Colleges and Universities:

- Ball State: Disabled Student Development 800-382-8540
- Butler University: Student Disability Services 317-940-9308
- Indiana University: Disability Services for Students 812-855-7578
- IUPUI: Adaptive Educational Services 317-274-5555
- Ivy Tech Main Campus Disability Support Services 317-921-4799
- Purdue University: Adaptive Programs 765-4941247
- University of Indianapolis: Build Program #17-788-3536
- Vincennes University: STEP Program 812-888-4214