IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS OF A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY

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Unique Needs of Parents of a Student with a Disability

Transition from high school to college

(Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act) IDEIA versus (Americans with Disabilities Act) ADA

Expectation of change

New conversations must occur between parents and their children-students

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- Instructional Standards
Institutional Support

Expectations: students will be challenged, will learn, and will grow

Student centered process

Students must reach-out to utilize support

Students are now young adults
Realistic and Unrealistic Goals and Expectations

Understand unique circumstances of workload ability

Unrealistic Goal:
• Disability Offices exist to provide support, not as an assurance to prevent failure
Goals of Parent Collaboration

Set realistic expectations

• Allow parents to speak and be heard; interject with guidance when possible
• Always leave the conversation on a positive note
  • Example – student receiving services failed a class

Set family goals
Overview of Orientation Presentation to Families

- Childhood vs. College Services
- Student Access Services
- Basic Requirements for Students
- Role of Parents and Families
Students Must

Register with Student Access Services (SAS)

Disclose any disabilities for which they wish to receive accommodations

Fill Out Forms

Self-advocate by having conversations with professors about their accommodation
Families Should

Ask your students reflective questions
  • Example: Can you tell me how your accommodations are helping you in your English class?

Be aware of timelines and discuss them with your student
  • Testing lab sign up
  • Add/Drop class dates on University calendar: hofstra.edu/academiccalendar

After asking your students, call/email Parent Office with any questions

Be prepared for possible student resistance/unwillingness to discuss academics
  • Work of strategies for communication
Goals for Students and Families Registered with Disability Service Office

Promote self-advocacy and independence for students

Provide support and outlet for parents to reach out to university without overstepping / misusing student resources

Reduce stigma
Group Think

Discuss new/different resources you would like to bring to your campuses.
What does your office/University currently do support families of students with a disability?
What current collaborations exist?
What collaborations/support do you hope to see in the future?
Contact Us Anytime!

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