

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR COLLEGE?

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Consider these questions:

1. Does he keep track of his own homework assignments?
2. Does she create and implement plans that are reasonable for working through short term and long term homework assignments?
3. Does he know how to ask for help?
4. Does she understand how to manage her anxiety when dealing with a stressful day? Or does she require adult intervention for her to implement self-calming strategies?
5. Does he have 1-2 friends he seeks out to maintain a friendship?
6. Can she do homework assignments for language arts/written expression without regular adult assistance?
7. Can he make basic inferences, summarize stories, and understand there is a main idea?
8. Does she have an idea of maintaining her hygiene without constant reminders?
9. Does he understand the need to help at home even if he doesn't want to?
10. Can she find intrinsic motivation to push to do things she doesn't enjoy?
11. Does he or she demonstrate a significant attention span and willingness to learn/participate at harder tasks when doing specific visual-motor or technical tasks (electronics, mechanics, technology, etc.)?
12. Does she say she hates school and struggles (or is completely unable) to wake up in the morning to go to school without parent intervention?
13. Is he asking to get a job in the community (e.g., Retail, food services, social services) in lieu of going to college?

If the majority of answers to questions 1-10 were **NO**, then the student is at great risk for not making it - even in the most understanding and helpful college programs. College transition programs do not "entitle" success; a student needs to be able to learn the basic concepts of the college courses and demonstrate knowledge with only the accommodations available and appropriate to the type of disability.

If the answers to 11, 12 and 13 are mostly **YES**, the individual needs choices towards his or her own success outside of the traditional school or college experience.

High school offers a highly structured day. College life, even when commuting from home, is not routine and erratic in structure. There are large gaps in the middle of the day where students do not have classes and they are expected to work on assignments. Many of our students do not know how to make productive use of all the down time and may see it as *free time* or gaming time.