



**Utah Parent Center**  
Special needs, extraordinary potential

## Tips on Preparing Your Child for College

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1. Start preparing early. Mention college early and often.
2. Investigate assistive technology options to see what works well for your child.
3. Make sure you have current information on your child's disability and current testing from the school.
4. Find out what accommodations your child is using most frequently.
5. Consider scaling back on modifications in junior and senior year to prepare for college.
6. Do a vocational assessment to help your child explore their interests.
7. Make sure your child has good study skills.
8. Help your child increase their independent living skills:  
Cooking, cleaning, laundry, finances, getting up on time without help, self-care and grooming, taking the bus, following simple maps and directions
9. Teach your child about their disability – make sure they can explain it to others.
10. Put your child in charge. Help your child understand what accommodations they need in order to be successful so they can ask for them. Encourage them to advocate for themselves.
11. Learn and teach them about Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
12. Ask about accommodations on college entrance exams (ACT, SAT).
13. Help your child understand how college is different from high school and that they will be responsible for getting themselves to class on time and turning in assignments with little to no supervision.
14. Contact the disability resource center at the colleges your child is considering.
15. Visit the college to see if it's a good fit. Remember to investigate and apply for financial aid.

### Utah Parent Center

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