Checklist of Possible Accommodations to Review When Visiting Colleges

A student who has osteogenesis imperfecta may need a great many accommodations while at college or very few and this may vary from one semester to another. Students should be thinking through their needs during a typical day. Determine what is needed to live as independently as possible, get around, study, and be a member of the community. It is also important to talk with family to develop a plan for handling fractures or illness.

1. Considerations That Affect All Types Of OI
   A. Serious fracture may necessitate withdrawing from part of a semester.
   B. Mobility aids – wheelchair, walker, crutches – might be needed, daily or only occasionally.
   C. Some required courses may not be appropriate i.e. PE
   D. Short stature and/or muscular weakness may require some adaptations in seating, building entrance/egress (heavy doors), restrooms, dorm, and dining center.
   E. Accommodations for hearing loss may be needed. Hearing loss in young adults with OI can be mild to severe.
   F. Note-taking assistance may be needed.
   G. Accessible parking and/or on campus transportation to classrooms, dorms, student center, dining facilities, sports center.
   H. Acceptance by all members of the college community.
   I. Career counseling services must be able to take the disability into consideration.

2. Considerations for a Person with Mild to Moderate OI (Types I and IV)
   A. Coping with a less visible disability.
   B. May need accommodations only occasionally.
   C. Person may need additional physical accommodations later in life.

3. Considerations for a Person with Severe OI (Type III)
   A. Person is more likely to use a mobility aid, at least part of the time.
   B. Adaptations for a person of short stature may be necessary.
   C. May need a personal assistant while on campus if a commuting student, and in dorm if a resident.

4. Academic Program Accessibility Considerations
   A. What types of assistance are available to the student with a special need? (note taking, books on tape, alternate test taking arrangements such as extended time)
   B. Does the school provide assistive technology and/or interpreters for hearing impaired students?
   C. Does the college provide special career counseling for students with a disability?
   D. Are graduation requirements adaptable?
   E. Can substitutions be made in a graduation requirement?
   F. Are procedures in place to help cope with loss of time from a semester due to surgery or accident?

5. Building Accessibility Considerations
   A. Are all university offices accessible to students using mobility aids including wheelchairs, walkers, or crutches?
   B. How accessible are the classroom buildings?
      a. Are they easy to enter, are there ramps, are the doors easy to open, are automatic doors installed?
      b. Are accessible restrooms available in all buildings?
      c. Are lights in offices, study areas, and restrooms automatic or on a low switch?
   C. Are Libraries and Computer Labs fully accessible?
   D. Are dining facilities accessible in terms of counter and table height and room for wheelchair or walker?
E. Are Residence Halls accessible for living there and for visiting friends?
   a. Room considerations should include position of light switches, emergency egress, closets, and space for mobility aid.
   b. Other considerations include location and type of shower and restroom facilities, laundry, and telephone.
F. Are distances on campus between dorms, parking, and major buildings reasonable for your ability to get around?
G. Will you be able to cope with the weather? Are there connecting tunnels or walkways?
H. What is the availability of on campus transportation?

6. Accessibility of Social Life Considerations
   A. Is the college community already inclusive?
   B. Do students with disabilities live apart or intermixed with other students?
   C. Are students with disabilities members of fraternities, sororities, student government and other extra-curricular activities?
   D. Are there recreational opportunities?
   E. Are both the on and off campus student hangouts accessible?
   F. Are sports arenas and stadiums accessible?

7. Questions Frequently asked by Students with a Disability
   A. What kinds of services are offered by the Office of Students with Special Needs?
   B. How do I get disabled parking on campus?
   C. How do I get rides to school if I break my leg and can't drive?
   D. How do I get extra time on my exams?
   E. How many students with disabilities are on campus?
   F. I need long term parking. Where do I go?
   G. I need special parking for a few weeks. Where do I go?
   H. How do I go about getting a note taker?
   I. How do I go about getting admitted at this college if I have a disability?

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