

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 begin by 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?

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- 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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