Assistive Technology
High School to College
Access
Through Technology
<table>
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<th>High School</th>
<th>College</th>
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<tr>
<td>The applicable law is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA. IDEA guarantees each student a Free and Appropriate Public Education. IDEA is about success.</td>
<td>The applicable law is the Americans with Disabilities Act or the ADA, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 and Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. ADA guarantees equal access to college programs and facilities. The ADA is about access.</td>
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WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive Technology includes assistive, adaptive and rehabilitation devices for people with disabilities.

- For example, people with limited hand function may use a keyboard with large keys or a special mouse to operate a computer, people who are blind may use software that reads text on the screen in a computer-generated voice, people with low vision may use software that enlarges screen content, people who are deaf may use a TTY (text telephone), or people with speech impairments may use a device that speaks out loud as they enter text via a keyboard.
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE - AND **USEFUL!** - IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS.

- Assistive Technology is not just for students with sensory impairments.
- Assistive Technology provides written materials in audio format for students with reading, or other print related disabilities.
- Assistive Technology allows the student to manage their own reformatting of material without the use of a human reader, or a 1:1 aid, or hard copies of lecture notes.
- There are no 1:1 aids in college!
WHERE DO I FIND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ON COLLEGE CAMPUS?

- There is at least one office that maintains equipment with assistive technology for student use. On most campuses, this office is the Disability Support Services Office, but other areas, such as the Library, the Academic Support Center, the Learning Center, etc. may also house assistive technology for student use.
WHY DO I NEED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive Technology offers educational material in alternative formats.

- Very few colleges will provide human readers. On most campuses, text books are available on CD ROMS for people with print-related disabilities, tests are made available on computers to be “read” by text readers, etc.

- More and more colleges are encouraging students to get class notes through AT and distance learning sites, rather than hiring note takers.
Types of Assistive Technology

- **Text Readers** – Software programs that read electronic text and convert them to speech.

- **Digital Recorders** – Miniature Recording Devices with various options that record verbal lectures into sound files.

- **Speech-to-Text Programs** – Allow students to convert spoken words into text.

- **Screen Magnification Software** – Enlarges and enhances everything on the computer screen for low-vision users.
More Assistive Technology

- **Pen Scanners and Reading Pens** – Hand held devices are miniature scanners with optical character reading *and voice recording* capability.

- **Talking Calculators and Dictionaries** – A talking calculator has a built-in speech synthesizer that reads aloud each number, symbol or operation key a user presses; it also vocalizes the answer to the problem. A talking dictionary will read the word and definition aloud. Both are available in hand-held models or as software programs.
APPS, APPS, APPS!

Before purchasing software, check your smartphone, smartpad, or smartpen for assistive technology apps. In some cases, the technology is available as a free app!
Visit us after the conference!

http://www.albany.edu/disability/prospective-new.shtml