Assistive Technology
High School to College
Access Through Technology
The Governing Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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.</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.</td>
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<td>IDEA guarantees each student a Free and Appropriate Public Education. IDEA is about success.</td>
<td>ADA guarantees equal access to college programs and facilities. The ADA is about access.</td>
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Assistive Technology includes assistive, adaptive and rehabilitation devices for people with disabilities.

- People with limited hand function may use a keyboard with large keys or a special mouse to operate a computer.
- Blind or low vision users may use software that reads text on the screen in a computer-generated voice.
- Low vision users may use software that enlarges screen content.
- Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may use a pocket talker to amplify sound.
- People with speech impairments may use a device that speaks out loud as they enter text via a keyboard.

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ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE - AND USEFUL! - IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS.

- Assistive Technology is not just for students with sensory impairments. It can be helpful for people with reading or other print related disabilities.

- 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!

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WHERE DO I FIND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES?

- Disability Support Services Offices:
  - Accessibility Services (C-GCC)
  - Access and Equity (SUNY Delhi)
  - Disability Resource Center (SUNY Albany)
- Library
- Academic Support Center
- Learning Center

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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 or MP3s 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.

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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.

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More Assistive Technology

- **Premier Literacy Suite**
  - E-Text Reader – Text to Speech - Reads Word Processing Documents
  - PDF Equalizer – Reads PDF Documents
  - Talking Word Processor - Type to Speech
  - Talking Word Pointer – Screen Reader. Reads everything on computer screen, not just text.

- **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.

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Livescribe SmartPen
www.livescribe.com

Smartpen

Livescribe Desktop

Pencasts and Community

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Livescribe Smartpen Features

- **Captures/stores your writing**
- **Captures/stores audio, linking to writing**
- **Pen & Dot-Paper**
- **Store on Computer = Pencast**
- **Dot-Paper = Dot Positioning System**

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

- Dragon Dictation (Speech to Text)
- Evernote or OneNote (Note Taking)
- iStudiez or Studious (Time Management)
- Quizlet (Studying)
- Premier Reader, Voice Dream, Learning Ally, Overdrive (for audio books) – Text Readers
Visit us after the conference!

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