

We are here to help!

CAP is an independent advocate for clients and client applicants.

CAP was established to improve communication and help resolve issues between clients and vocational rehabilitation/DRS staff and other Rehabilitation Act funded program staff.

CAP also helps clients understand the rehabilitation process and the benefits available under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

CAP's role is to provide information about benefits available under the Rehabilitation Act and to assist clients with understanding their rights and responsibilities in relation to receipt of these benefits.

Office of Disability Concerns provides services under the **Client Assistance Program (CAP)**, serving as a vital link between the Oklahoma Department of Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services (OKDRS) and the disability community. CAP provides advocacy to persons with disabilities who are seeking or receiving vocational rehabilitation (VR) services from DRS, as well as individuals who are receiving services from independent living centers or other Rehabilitation Act funded programs such as Tribal VR and Higher Education.

**YOUR
FUTURE**

Client Assistance Program

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High School Student's Guide

Client Assistance Program

Client Assistance Program



(800) 522-8224
www.ok.gov/odc

Lets go to school, lets go get a great job, and lets go do the things I want to do!

Congrats! You are about to start a great journey! - Your high school years are nearly behind you. And you need to start to make some important decisions. As student who may have a disability you are well aware that you can overcome any challenge but making sure you have the information, resources and a plan. To help you the following are suggestions for you to consider on this exciting journey!

Make a list of the services you'll need for a successful post secondary education - Before you look for post secondary schools that can accommodate you best, you need to know what you're looking for. Understand your rights for education according to the ADA. Then, when planning for schools, consider what programs and services you'll need from special transportation to and from classes to extra time for exams.

Find schools to match your needs - While schools must accommodate your needs, you may find more success at a college or university that already has the special programs and services you need in place. Find colleges based on your desired degree, and then request information on their current programs for students with disabilities.

Contact campus specialists - Each of the colleges you're considering should have an office for disability services to help you navigate the system. Visit the colleges you're

considering and meet with specialists to find out how the programs, facilities, procedures and policies will meet your needs. Aside from the auxiliary aid accommodations required by the ADA, many schools offer additional benefits including transition courses, special study areas, lighter course loads, scheduling assistance and extra time to meet with professors.

Don't feel obliged to disclose your disability on your application - You don't need to tell your college about your disability. And federal law prohibits colleges from asking you about a disability. That said, you can explain your disability if you desire. For example, if you believe it affected your grades or test scores and you therefore may benefit from disclosing your disability. However, this is a personal choice and not necessary.

Be prepared to show documentation regarding the diagnosis of your disability - Check with your future school to see exactly what's required. If you don't have the documentation your school requires you may need to get a new evaluation. This is your responsibility, but you may qualify for a free evaluation through your state vocational rehabilitation agency.

Gather additional resources - There is a wealth of information available to help students with disabilities reach their education goals.

- Department of Rehabilitation Services
- DisabilityInfo.gov
- Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) HEATH Resource Center
- Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)

Tips & Tactics for Students with Disabilities

- Don't wait for schools to contact you about special accommodations. You need to be proactive and initiate any requests.
- Once you choose a school and begin your program, be sure to make appointments with your instructors to ensure you get the accommodations you need.
- Develop a support network of other students with disabilities. A study group of students with similar needs can help you stay on track and boost your learning.

CAP works with YOU with Vocational Rehabilitation, Higher Education, Independent Living Centers and Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation in achieving your employment goals.