

## **Checklist for Students and Families Exploring Postsecondary Education Options**

### **What are my goals for participating in a postsecondary education program?**

- Completing a certificate or degree
- Paid community integrated employment
- Community navigation
- Taking college courses (credit and continuing education)
- Auditing courses
- Social opportunities with other college-age students
- Participation in specific campus activities or facilities
- Independent living through a residential experience
  - On-campus housing;
  - Near-campus group living home; Near-campus apartment living
  - Living at home

### **What types of postsecondary education options are available at each institution that I am considering?**

- Public or private
  - 2 year community college or technical college
  - 4 year institution
  - Adult education programs

### **What accommodations should I request or find?**

- Academic Accommodations:
  - Reader; Scribe; Interpreter services; Physical access; Assistive Technology – FM systems/ computer software for text to voice access of books and/or internet information; Books on CD; Other adaptations
- Other non-academic supports
- Job coach; Education Coach; Personal assistant; Life Coach

### **Who are potential allies on campus?**

- DSS provider
- University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
- “Disability friendly” faculty, administrators, staff members, and departments
- Professional and student groups with an interest in disability issues

### **How can I fund my postsecondary education?**

- School district programs
- IEP identified services
- State and local agencies
  - Eligibility requirements for agencies
  - Timelines for eligibility with the state agencies
- Federal student loan and work-study programs
- Nonprofit grant opportunities
- Grant opportunities at local institutions
- Private loans
- Part-time work
- Personal savings

### **Other questions to ask about non-traditional program options**

- What services or programs are offered on campus specifically for students with disabilities or other under-represented groups?
- What department oversees those programs?
- How large is the program staff and what are its functions?
- Who determines eligibility for the program?
- What is the status of the students in non-traditional programs on campus?
- Do students have full access to campus facilities and activities?
- What types of activities does the campus offer that would be of interest to the students?
- What is the physical layout of the program?
- Where is it located on campus?
- What types of transportation are available to and from the campus?
- How integrated is the program into the university community?
- Is the DSS provider familiar with the program and the needs of the students within the program?