



## Postsecondary Planning — Making the Transition From High School

### Heading to college?

Include Bookshare™ in your planning. College is different: different schedules, different expectations, more freedom and more responsibilities. You will have a chance to stand on your own two feet and meet or exceed those expectations. How can you best prepare?

One way is to develop essential college skills while you are still in high school: time management (there will never be enough time) and self-advocacy (know yourself and ensure you get what you need).

In college, you can be your own best advocate: know your strengths and weaknesses, understand how your area of disability affects your learning and develop the strategies you need to succeed.

College classes generally require reading and lots of it—from literature to research materials. If you have a print disability, you'll need a strategy to keep up with and understand your college reading assignments. Bookshare is here to help, with accessible books and two free online reading tools.

If you have a Bookshare membership through your high school, library or other organization, now is the best time to sign up for an individual membership. Thanks to a federal award, it's free! As with an unlimited library card, you can select and download books independently using your own individual password. Your high school or organization can help you with the paperwork to transition to an individual membership. Check out

the Bookshare website for more details:

<http://www.bookshare.org/membershipOptions>.

When you arrive at college, check in with the Disabled Student Services (DSS) office during orientation or before school begins. Make sure that your accommodations are in place. Find out what resources are available to you. Be sure to ask about Bookshare membership. The type of membership is up to you.

Will you want assistance from the DSS downloading books? Then you'll want the DSS to add you to an organizational membership. Will you download all your books on your own? Then an individual membership may be enough. Some students choose to have both types of membership.

Do you want the DSS's assistance getting an individual membership? If you are on the college or university's account, the DSS can print individual membership forms and give them to you sign and send in. Or, you can start an individual membership on your own and ask someone in the DSS who's qualified to certify that you are eligible. Either way works to get you an individual membership.

### Taking a break from school?

If you decide to take a break from your studies, you have six weeks to re-register with Bookshare as a non-student Member. Contact Bookshare's membership department at: [groupaccounts@bookshare.org](mailto:groupaccounts@bookshare.org). Qualified non-students pay \$75 the

first year (\$25 for a one-time set up fee and \$50 for the membership fee). After the first year, the annual fee is \$50. Once you are a student again, membership is FREE!

### Starting in the fall as a high school sophomore or junior?

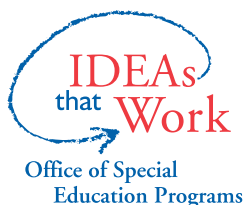
Students in their sophomore or junior year in high school will want to start planning for life after high school. Whether you are planning on a vocational school or a more traditional college or university, Bookshare has the books and periodicals you'll need—both for your classes and for leisure reading.

High school is preparation for your college success. Now is the time to practice the skills you will need to succeed in college. Regularly use your accommodations and develop good study and time management skills. Most importantly, use your

compensatory strategies such as reading Bookshare books, newspapers, and magazines with the free software provided with your membership. By the time you get to college, using accommodations and strategies will all be second nature and you can focus on all the new and exciting offerings that college provides.

When you visit a prospective school, contact the DSS and make an appointment to meet with someone from the office for a general tour. The office staff are there to support you while you are in college. Consider bringing copies of your file from high school, including any assessments and psychological reports. DSS staff may also appreciate information on what accommodations were provided to you while you were in high school.

Put Bookshare in your backpack—the world of new ideas is yours!



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