

The Step-by-Step Transition to College

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Preview

1. Understand “transition”.
2. Consider what will change in college.
3. Pick a college that is right for you.
4. Find these answers, then apply online.
5. Connect with Disability Services.
6. Know how accommodations will be different than in high school.
7. Take responsibility for your accommodations.

STEP 1: Understand “transition”



transition



noun

The process or a period of **changing** from one state or condition to another.

verb

To **change** from one situation, form, or state to another.



Transition means **change**
& **change** means **doing**
and **thinking** about things
differently than you have
in the past.

STEP 2: Consider what will change

HIGH SCHOOL

Teachers

Assigned school counselor

In school about 30 hours per week

Tests after each chapter

IEP, 504 Plan, Support Services

COLLEGE

Professors

Assigned a faculty advisor

In class about 15 hours per week

Tests on several chapters

Accommodation Plan

STEP 3: Pick a college right for you

- Does this college offer an academic program or training you want to pursue?
- Does it offer useful supports for you?
 - If you have Autism, does it have a support program made specifically for students with Autism?
 - If you use a wheelchair or a cane or dog to help with navigation, does the college offer a map of the most direct and accessible paths on campus?



STEP 4: Find these answers, then apply online

- Is there a fee to apply? If so, how much?
- What are the costs for tuition, housing, and fees per semester?
- Does the college require that you have SAT scores? Is there a placement test?
- Does the college offer pre-college-level classes (remedial) if you need them?
- How does a student apply for financial aid? What does FAFSA stand for?
- Find the application form on the college website



STEP 5: Connect with Disability Services

- What is the name of the office that supports students with disabilities?
- Where is that office; what building, and room?
- Does this office have a page on the college website? What's located there?
- What steps do you need to follow to get supports into place?
 - Fill out and send in a form to disclose your disability?
 - Meet with a staff person for an “Intake” appointment?
 - Provide paperwork to confirm your disability?
 - How will you know what academic adjustments or accommodations you will be provided?
 - How will your professors know what you need?



STEP 6: Know how accommodations may be different than in HS

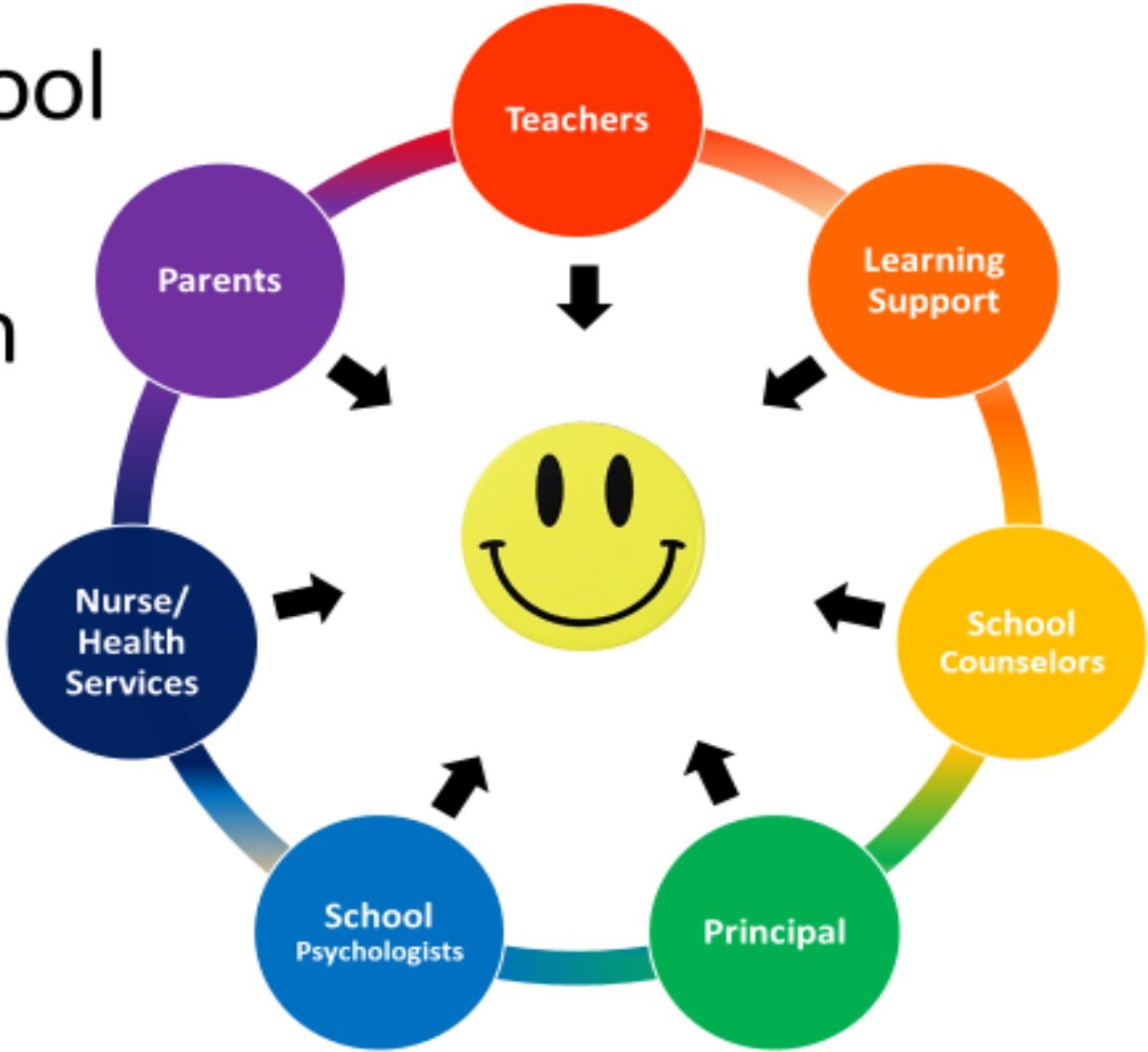
In high school:

- You have an IEP, 504 service plan or other support services
- Your teachers and other school staff have access to your disability/diagnosis & accommodations
- Your teachers have primary responsibility for arranging your accommodations
- A **TEAM** of individuals support you (teachers, other school staff, & parents)
- Adjustments to accommodations are made as needed

The focus is on SUCCESS/graduation



High School Team Approach



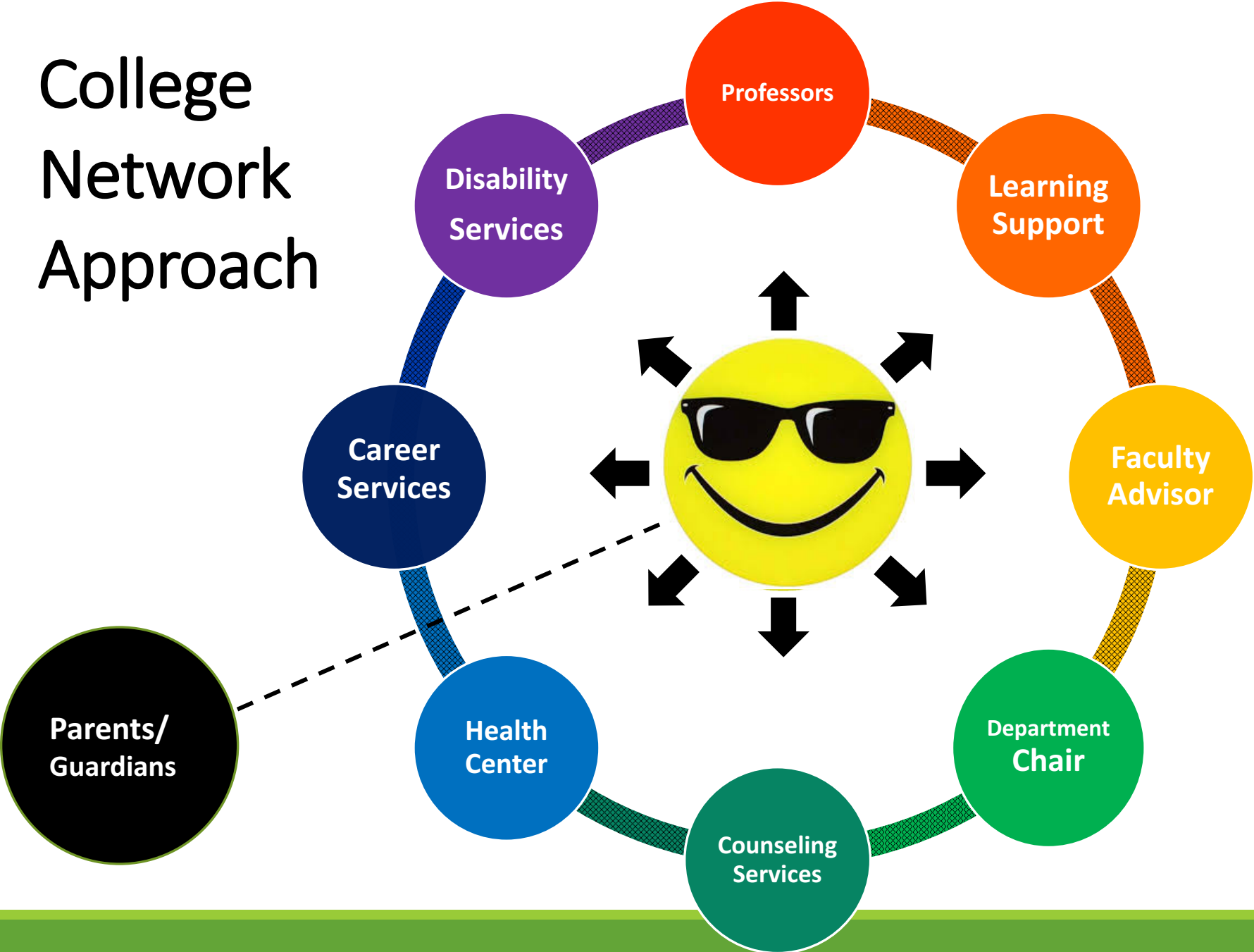
Know how accommodations may be different than in HS

In college:

- You have an accommodation plan (not an IEP or 504 plan)
- Professors and other staff do not have access to your accommodation plan.
- Profs will not know you have accommodations unless you (or DS staff) tell them
- No one, except the disability office, will ask or know about your disability/diagnosis
- You are responsible for arranging your approved accommodations
- You have a **NETWORK** of individuals who will support you (support services across campus)

The focus is on ACCESS to programs, services, and facilities

College Network Approach



Know how accommodations may be different than in HS

In college:

- Tests are not modified or shortened
- Tests are taken in one test session; extended time may be an approved accommodation
- Assignments are generally not modified; alternatives for oral presentations may be approved in some cases
- Extended time for assignments is not a common accommodation (in some cases where disability related flare ups impact cognitive functioning, allowances may be made)



Know how accommodations may be different than in HS

In college:

- Study guides/instructor's notes are not generally provided; peer note taker may be provided
- Attendance in class is expected and required; in some cases where disability related flare ups impact cognitive and/or physical functioning, limited flexibility may be granted
- Students are responsible for their own behavior and are not excused from disciplinary action due to disability

Know how accommodations may be different than in HS

Some typical college accommodations:

CLASSROOM

- Preferential seating
- Note taker
- Extended test time
- Use of spell checker
- Alternative text format

RESIDENCE HALL & DINING SERVICES

- Accessible rooms
- Single room
- Semi private bath
- Special diets

CAMPUS ACCESS

- Walkways and entrances
- Parking
- Elevators and ramps
- Shuttle bus

COMMUNICATION

- Large print hand-outs
- ASL Interpreters
- FM system
- Captioned videos
- Accessible documents & website

STEP 7: Take responsibility for your accommodations

- Use accommodations in your first semester
- Stay in touch with the Disability Services staff
- Communicate with DS staff if there is a problem with accommodations
- Advocate for yourself and talk with professors
- Learn the rules and practices of the DS office
- You may need to request accommodations every semester



Review

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Questions?

