

Student Advice

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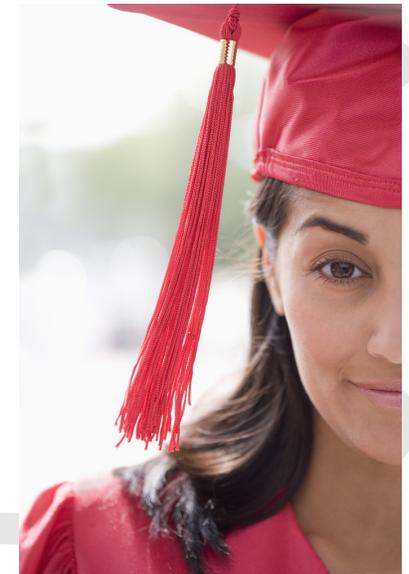
The transition from high school to college involves a student moving from a very structured environment to one where self-directed learning is more apparent. Students are more prepared and therefore more comfortable when they know what sort of structure the day will follow (learning in labs vs lectures, writing essays vs group work) and should be exposed to a variety of learning styles before they attend college. They should also practice juggling several assignments at once with tight deadlines because time management is a critical skill in academic and professional life.

Students should be encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities and have practice using a planner. As basic as this might sound, tips on how to plan ahead and get the most out of using a planner will save the student frustration and time and will let the student be able to have a cushion of time for activities and for assignments that need extra time. Students need to learn how to plan into the next week or month to avoid penalties for handing things in late.

Students in high school need to be taught the basics of taking good notes efficiently and taught communication skills, like teamwork and presentation skills. These are practical skills that can come in handy in many professions and increase self-confidence. This may be accomplished by giving speeches as assignments or having the students debate or act scenarios out.

**Centre for Students with
Disabilities**

Transition Planning for High School Students with a Disability



ALGONQUIN
COLLEGE

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Transitioning to Post-Secondary Studies

Transitioning to postsecondary studies requires some planning. High school teachers working with students who have an IPRC can help get them ready for their future studies.

Expectations of students:

- ✓ Students need to self-identify with the Centre for Students with Disabilities and arrange for accommodations.
- ✓ Students take a leadership role in their learning and need to access services like tutoring, notetaking and/or a Learning Strategist if they run into trouble.
- ✓ Students are expected to attend classes and complete assignments. It is the student's responsibility to follow up with their professors if they have been absent or have missed assignments.



- ✓ Students are expected to understand their strengths and weaknesses. They should also be open to trying new strategies and/or technology.

Successful Habits:

High school teachers can prepare students for the increased academic demands of postsecondary by helping them to develop successful habits.

- ✓ Have students use an agenda to keep track of assignments, due dates and tests.
- ✓ Allow students to practice taking notes for a lecture and later, show them how to review and make study sheets.
- ✓ Model how to study for a variety of test types with peers.
- ✓ Demonstrate how to use memory tricks like acronyms, rhymes and visual imagery to remember large amounts of material.
- ✓ Have students create their own questions for practice when studying for tests. Use students' cue cards to quiz the class every day.
- ✓ Show students how to make detailed outlines before starting to write essays. Use Inspiration™ software for mind mapping.



Transition Planning Checklist:

Ensure that the student has a copy of their most recent:

- ✓ IPRC report
- ✓ Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- ✓ Psychoeducational assessment
- ✓ High school transcript
- ✓ All medical information they need to share (e.g. medications)

And, that they have:

- ✓ Made contact or met with the Disability Services office of the institutions they are considering
- ✓ Made contact or met with the program department to discuss the demands of their program choice
- ✓ Obtained a reading list if alternative format is required

Every year Algonquin College offers a variety of transition programs. Please visit our website for more information.