

The College Selection Process



**Relax it is only one of
the most important
choices of your life!**

Beacon College



- The first baccalaureate college exclusively for students with learning differences or ADHD
- Academic support embedded directly into the curriculum
- Faculty are content experts trained to teach non-traditional learners
- Executive Function support is embedded in the academic curricula

Our Students



- Currently 67% of our students enroll at first time college students
- 33% attend Beacon College after disappointing academic results in college, often stemming from executive function issues

The Hard Truth

- Graduation Rates?

*Department of Education study examining graduation rates at degree-granting, 4-year Title IV institutions

A - 87%

B - 71%

C - 54%

D - 30%

The Hard Truth

- Graduation Rates?

*Department of Education study examining graduation rates at degree-granting, 4-year Title IV institutions

54.3%

Americans With Disability Act



Under the Americans with Disability Act every college and university must have disability access, but services vary

Determining Access vs. Success

Be Realistic!

Student's Responsibilities



- Choose a college or university suited to their strengths as a learner
- Inform the college or university of their disability
- Keep updated documentation (3 years)
- Keep track of communication regarding accommodations

Documentation



- Diagnosis of a Learning Disability
- Cognitive Testing
 - Wechsler Intelligence Scale (WISC/WAIS)
 - Woodcock Johnson Cognitive
- Achievement Testing
 - Woodcock Johnson Test of Achievement
 - Wechsler Individual Achievement Scale
 - Gray Oral Reading Test
- List of Accommodations

Revised AHEAD Recommendations A Brave New World?



- Primary Documentation
 - Student's Self Report
- Secondary *Documentation*
 - *Observation and Interaction*
- *Tertiary Documentation*
 - Information from external or third-party sources

Selecting the RIGHT College



Size

Major

Location

Scholarship Aid

Disability Support

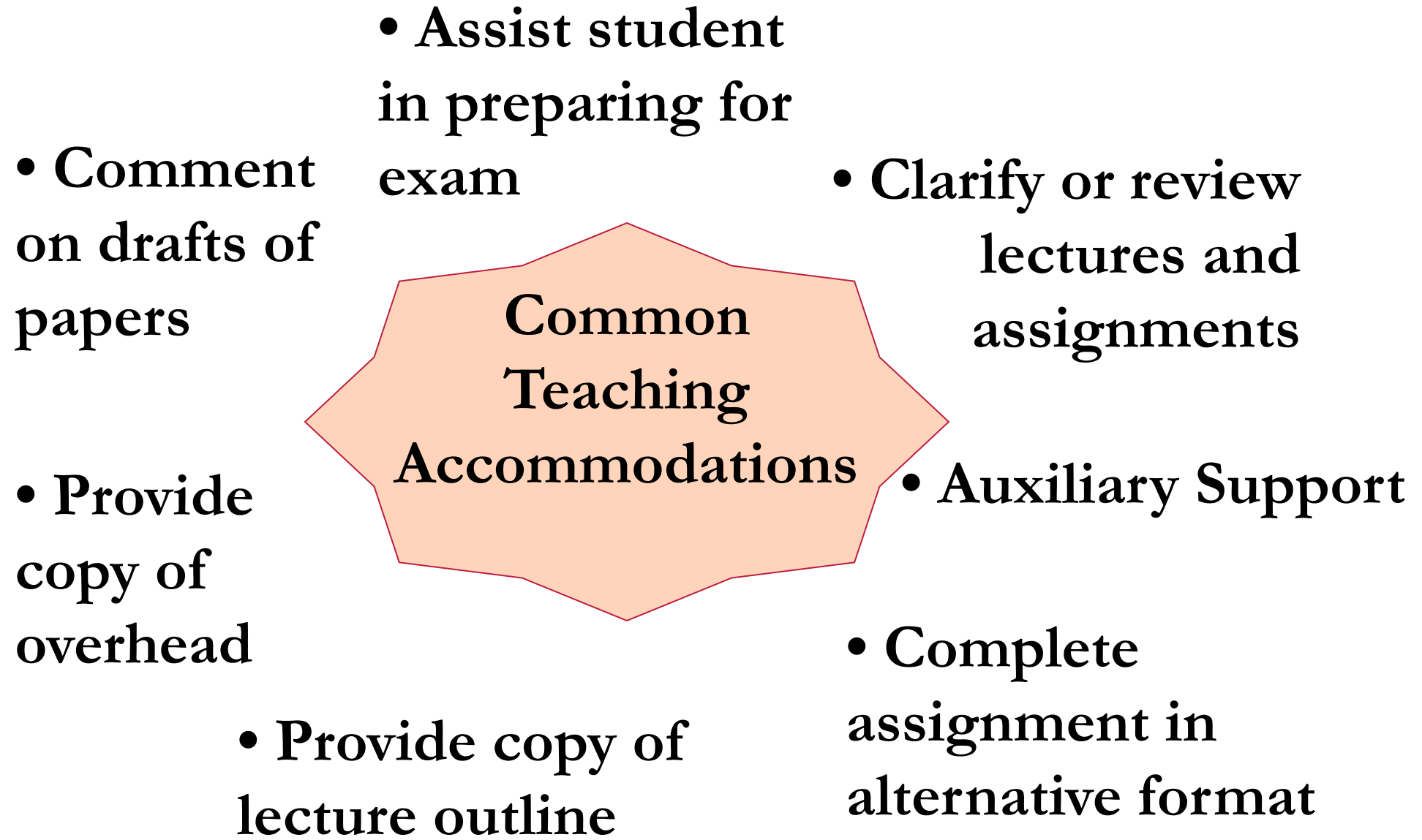
College Support Structures



Traditional Accommodations

Vs.

Structured Learning Support Programs



Take The Lead!



The student must be the point person in the college search

Make inquiry calls, schedule interviews and keep track of applications

Make an appointment to interview with Admissions, but also the Disability Support Coordinator

What to Ask....

- Faculty to Student Ratio
- Disability Support Specialist's Backgrounds
- Types of Accommodations Provided
- Graduation Rates/Student Outcomes
- Types of Assistive Technology

Application Process

**To Disclose or
Not to Disclose**

That is the question!

Five Foundations of College Success



- Academic Skill
- Self Understanding (Meta-cognition)
 - Executive Function
- Motivation and Confidence
 - **Self - Advocacy**

Self-Advocacy



- What is self-advocacy?
 - Communicating your needs
 - Standing up for yourself
 - Taking responsibility for your life
 - Knowing and expressing your strengths
 - Conveying what accommodations you need, and why
 - Asking questions

Self-Advocacy



Describing Your Disability

- I have difficulty paying attention in class, and need to sit in the front of the room.
- I have a learning disability that makes it hard for me to remember instructions when you tell them to me.

Describing Your Strengths

- I am really interested in American history and have a great memory of facts.
- I am a hard worker and work well if I have a list of tasks to accomplish.
- I love to hike and snowboard.

Self-Advocacy



Describing Your Support Needs

- In the past, I have been most successful when given extra time on a test.
- I have learned that these accommodations work best for me.
- In case I have a question, I need to know who I should go to first.

Document Your Disability

- Here are the forms that show my documented disability, and what accommodations work best for me in a class.
- Here are the forms that show what assistance I might need in the workplace.

Conclusion

There are many curves ahead, and life after high school can be a little like a roller coaster; scary, fast, exciting, and hopefully fun!

