

Monthly tips and resources featured in **What's Next?** are created for young adults, their families, and supporters who are exploring options for life after high school in Indiana.

Planning for College 101: What Are Your Options?

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You may have already decided that you want to attend college or earn an academic degree. If this is your final year in school, that probably means you're graduating from an Indiana high school with either a Core 40 or a General Diploma. (Hint: You have more options if you graduate with a Core 40 Diploma.) But if you'll be leaving school in a few years with a Certificate of Completion, does that mean you can't experience college? Not necessarily.

Indiana has several programs around the state for students with disabilities in their final year of high school who want to experience what

it's like to attend a class or hang out with college student peers. Many of these Indiana college experience programs give students the chance to audit courses with the support of a peer mentor. Several also offer on-campus work experiences.

Students planning to take classes at one of Indiana's Ivy Tech Community College campuses or an in-state or out-of-state university will want to meet with an advisor on campus to find out not only what classes are available but also what additional supports the college may offer to students with disabilities. Be sure to ask about transportation, accessibility, housing (if you're planning to live in a dorm), and social clubs and activities.

This month's resources: **A book and a website**

Both of this month's resources come from the Center on Community Living and Careers (CCLC). (CCLC also publishes the *What's Next?* newsletter.)

- ***Is College for You? Setting Goals and Taking Action***
<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/doc/resources/is-college-for-you.pdf> is a guide for students who haven't decided yet if they want to attend college. It takes readers through **career planning**, the importance of **self-advocacy**, **diploma requirements** for attending college or university, **funding** for tuition and housing, **accommodations**, **disability services** for students, and more.
- **Postsecondary Education** <https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cclc/transition-to-adulthood/postsecondary-education.html> is a CCLC webpage that explains and lists the **Indiana campus experience programs** for students in their final year of high school. The page also includes information on a few state colleges and universities offering **additional supports for students with disabilities** who are planning to earn an academic degree at a two- or four-year college or university.

Bonus tip: Save a copy of that final IEP!

Be sure to make copies of your final transition IEP. You may need a copy when you meet with adult service providers or agencies like Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation or the Bureau of Developmental Disability Services as you transition to life beyond high school.

If you're planning for college, that final IEP may also be helpful when you meet with your campus office of disability support services. Staff members of an office of disability support services help eligible students identify and request appropriate accommodations for college courses. Accommodations will depend on a student's specific needs but can include things like assistance with notetaking, the ability to record lectures, or extra time to complete assignments.

What's Next? is a project of the Center on Community Living and Careers and the Indiana Department of Education.

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