

# Parles Rekem, LLP

## Visiting the college campus...

*Dedicated to the highest quality representation of Children and Adults with Special Needs and Their Families*



**Norma Francullo, Esq.**  
**Of Counsel**  
**Parles Rekem, LLP**  
675 Morris Avenue  
Suite 200  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
**Phone:** 973-564-0055  
**Fax:** 973-544-9616  
**E-mail:** norma@parlesrekem.com  
www.ParlesRekem.com

Copyright 2014 by Norma Francullo, Esq.

Dear Student: Here are some questions to prepare yourself prior to your college visit and questions to ask while visiting the disabilities office at the school. Visiting colleges and universities is one of the most important parts of the college search process. Soak it all in and enjoy it, but go there prepared! Good luck!!

### **Prior to visiting: Do your homework:**

- Student should research the college disability service office web site for each school you are interested in, to find out information about services and documentation guidelines.
- Prior to touring the campus, student should consider scheduling a meeting with the disability services office
- Student should consider scheduling a meeting with the admissions office representative
- Student should consider finding out what the school offers in the way of financial aid and scholarship monies

### **Questions students should be ready to answer:**

1. What is your learning disability?
2. How does your learning disability affect how you learn?
3. What are your learning strengths and weaknesses?
4. How do you learn best? Example: in the classroom and at home
5. What study strategies do you use to help you learn?
6. What assistive technology do you use?
7. What accommodations will you be seeking to use in college?

### **Questions for the college disability service officer:**

#### **Questions on "Process":**

- What documentation must I bring to identify myself as a student with a disability? How current must it be?
- Do you require a separate application for the Learning Disabilities program? If so, how many applications do you get and how many students do you accept?
- Who decides if I qualify for accommodations?  
How difficult is it to get an accommodation that I have never used before?

### **Questions on “Privacy”**

- How is confidential information handled?

### **Questions on “Office Structure and Support”**

- How many students use your services?
- How many disabilities support counselors do you have on your staff? Will they advocate for you when speaking with a professor?

### **Questions on “Assistive Technology”**

- What assistive technology services do you offer? Do you have an AT person on staff?
- If I am in need of software or an assistive technology device, will the school provide it? Is there a fee?
- Are most textbooks available on audio?
- If I need an audiobook, is the university a member of Learning Ally, Bookshare, etc...?

### **Questions on “Types of Common Accommodations”**

- Can I record lectures?
- What accommodations do you offer your students?
- If you have extended time, where do you finish your exam?
- Foreign Language Waiver Substitutions: Does the university have a foreign language waiver substitution for students who because of their disability have struggled in the past with a foreign language class. Will the school’s decision be impacted negatively if a student received a C or higher grade in high school in a foreign or classical language?

### **Questions on “Other Services”**

- What facilities are available for your students? Ex. Study area, testing area
- If you have extended time, where do you finish your exam?
- If a student is having difficulty with a professor in accommodating the student, what assistance will be given to the student?
- Is tutoring provided? Is there an extra cost?
- Are tutors professional, peers or both?
- How many tutors do you have on staff?
- Are there Peer Facilitate Study Groups? (classmates or trained students)
- Is there a reading and writing lab on campus?

## Questions on “Campus Environment”

- What do you consider to be the most difficult majors for students with disabilities on your campus?
- Is there a support group on campus for students with disabilities? Is it student run? Are there students/mentors in my desired major that I can be matched with?

**There may not be answers to these questions. It is not common practice for a school to collect data on these particular questions. Please note this should not be considered a red flag if the school does not track this information.**

- How successful have your students been?
- What is the four year graduation rate for students with learning disabilities compared to the general education graduation rate on your campus?
- Do you track students who have used your services after graduation? If yes, what do your findings show about their success after graduation?