



NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE SEARCH FOR STUDENTS WHO LEARN DIFFERENTLY

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College & Career **Pathways** 2026

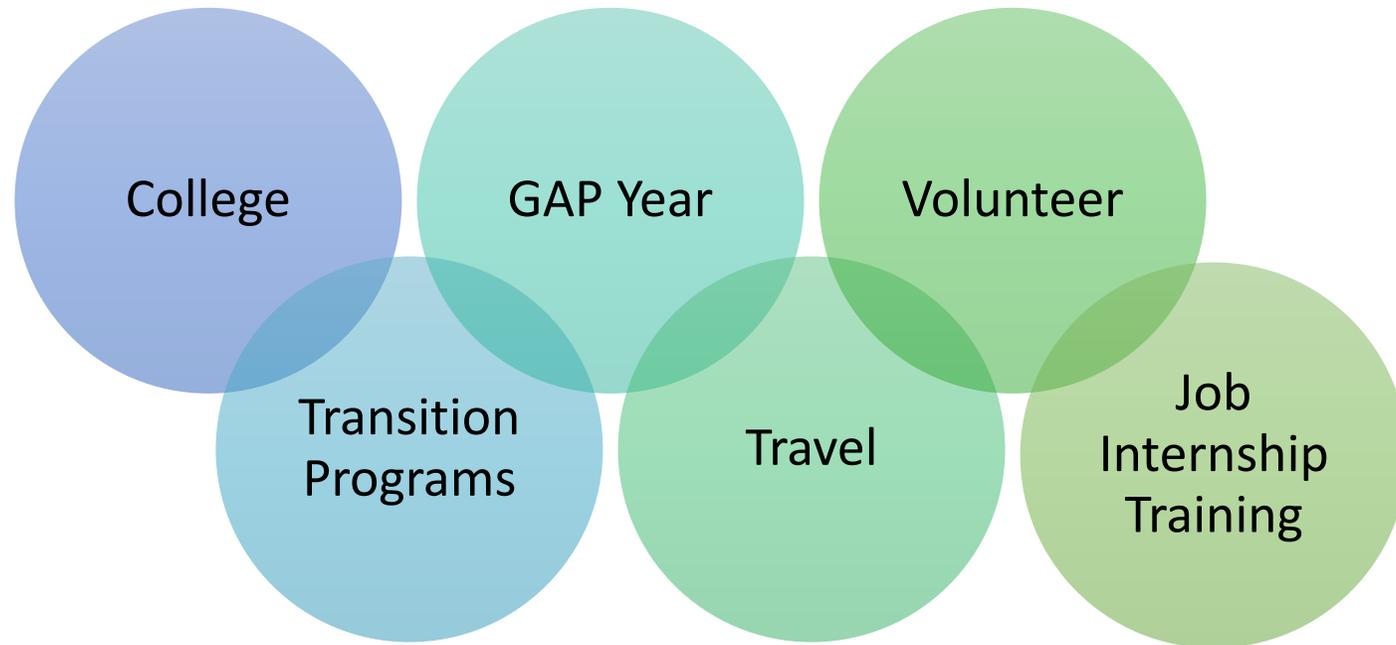
Agenda

- Definition of terms
- Finding the Right Fit
- Levels of Support
- Disclosing – When & Why
- Landmark College – Unique Support and Programming



Finding the Right Fit

Options To Consider

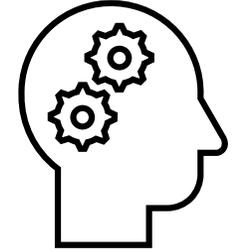


The Stats

Post-Secondary Completion Data – percentage of those completing college (young adults out of high school for 6 years)

- **In the general population:**
 - 51% completed a post-secondary school
- **Among neurodivergent students:**
 - 38% of students with learning disabilities
 - 35% of students with autism
 - 34% of students with other health impairments (includes ADHD)

Importance of Self-Knowledge



Ask Yourself:

- Who am I and what am I looking for in a college experience?
- What type of learner am I?
- In what environment do I learn best?
- What are my strengths and weaknesses?
- What accommodations and supports will set me up for success?

The Process

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL OFFER?

What do YOU need?

- ✓ What supports are in your IEP or 504 plan?
- ✓ Have you consulted with your counselor, teachers and family for input?
- ✓ Develop a list of accommodations and supports you're looking for?

start a list of schools

Explore college websites: disability services & universally available services

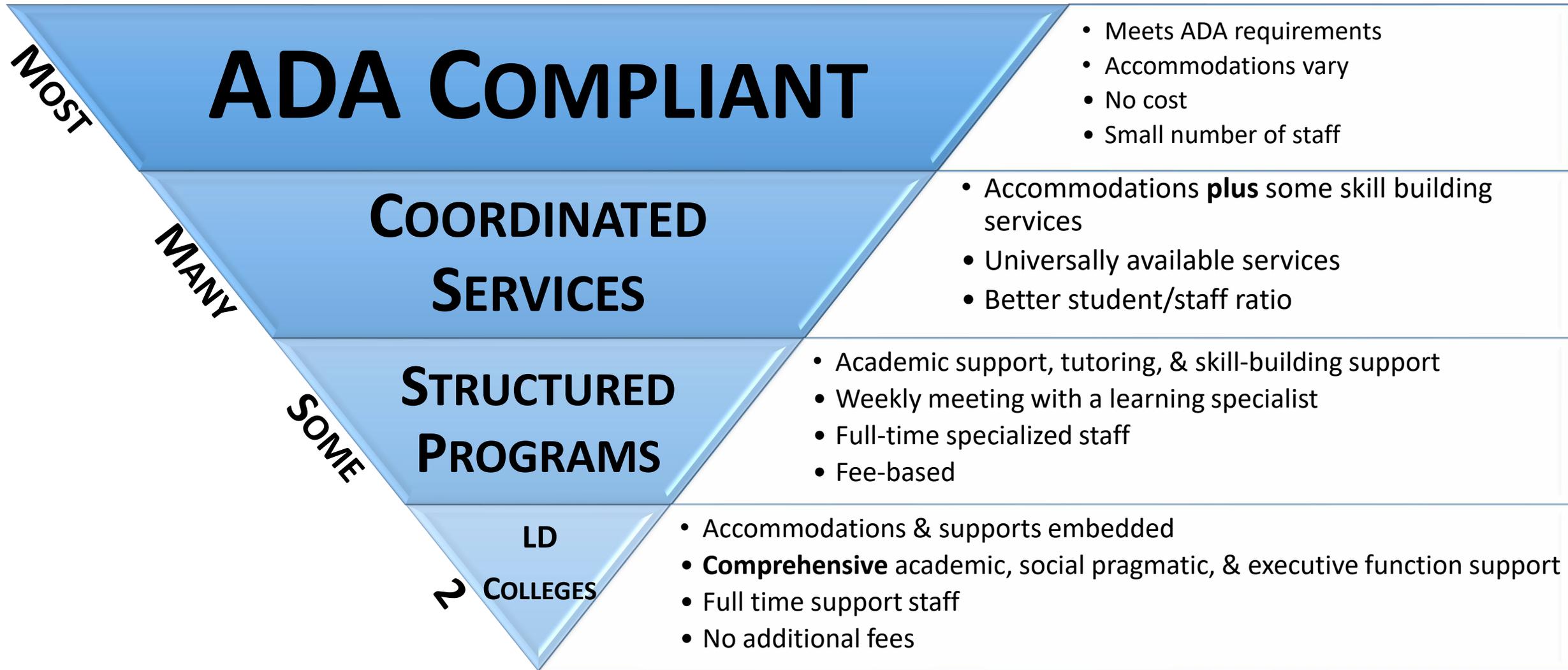
K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Differences

Reach out to Admissions or Disability Services

Location of Disability Services

Connect with current students and parents at the college

Levels of Support in College



Ask lots of questions

- Is academic support 1:1 or in a group?
 - Peer tutoring?
- Who does the academic advising for students who have LD's?
- Can students take a reduce course load?
- Is the college test-optional?
- What are the college's retention, graduation, & placement rates for students with LD's?

Beyond Academic Support

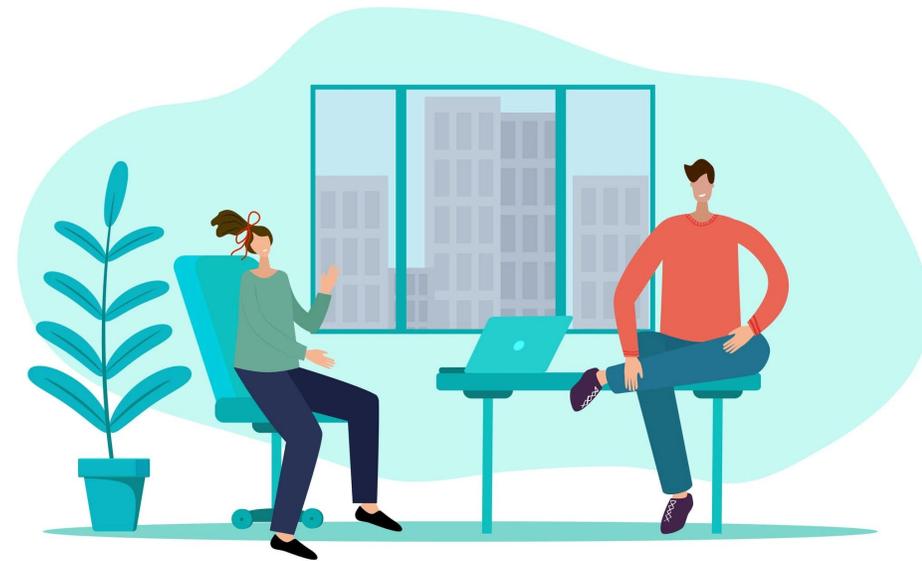
Student Life &
Campus
Connectedness

Availability of
Social Pragmatic
Support

Mental Health
Services

Career Readiness
Support

Disclosing



Providing Context, The Numbers

Did you know?

- 1 in 5 students have a learning difference

What percentage do you think disclose their diagnosis?

▪ Students with:

- Learning disability – **24%**
- “Other health impairments” (includes ADHD) – **25%**
- Autism – **63%**

Why Don't Students Disclose?

Fear

Desire

Denial

Unfamiliar

Invisibility

Underestimating

Disclosing: When & Why

Why Disclose?

- To receive accommodations



When?

- Before semester begins
- Two Options:
 - During application process
 - After admission decision

Highly Encourage to Disclose Early

Accommodations: An Ongoing Process



- **Self-advocate!**
 - Request each semester
- Discuss effectiveness
- Be vigilant

Landmark College

Devoted Exclusively to Students Who Learn Differently



Navigating the College Search for Student who Learn Differently

Landmark Fast Facts

Putney, VT
125 acres

450 students
38 States, 10 Countries

7:1 Student/Faculty
ratio
8-12 average class

14 Associates &
Bachelor's Degree
Programs +
Concentrations

87% bachelor's degree
students are employed
or in graduate school



Landmark Support

- ✓ Wraparound, fully integrated support services
- ✓ No Additional fees
- ✓ Academic advising – weekly meetings
- ✓ Drake Center for Academic Support / Executive Function coaching available
- ✓ Educational Technology
- ✓ Counseling & health services
- ✓ Residential support system
- ✓ Therapy Dog Program
- ✓ Social Pragmatic Support for Students on the Autism Spectrum
- ✓ Career Connections



Why Landmark?



- ✓ **Multiple Paths:** Online Dual Enrollment, Summer Programs, Bridge Experience, College START & Online Associate Degrees, TaC, Associates and Bachelor's Degree
- ✓ Universal Design for Learning
- ✓ **Perspectives in Learning:** Learn how you learn
- ✓ Community
- ✓ Landmark College Institute for Research and Training
- ✓ Center for Neurodiversity
- ✓ Centers for Diversity & Inclusion
- ✓ **Activities:** Sports, Speakers Series, Clubs, Social Events, Trips off campus
- ✓ Study Abroad led by LC Facility

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Work Cited

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U.S. Dept. of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics (2014). Table 6.1: Percentage of undergraduates who reported some type of disability and among those who did, the percentage distribution, by type of disability. Profile of undergraduate students: 2011-12. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2015/2015167.pdf>