

# Planning for College: Returning or Starting New

Recreation Therapy Department



Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Road, NW Atlanta, GA 30309-1465 404-352-2020 [shepherd.org](http://shepherd.org)

# Before you apply...

- Online vs. college campus
- Schedule campus tour
- Push around it, factor in hills, distance from buildings, overall accessibility, climate
- Are restrooms accessible
- Accessible housing
- Age of campus/buildings
- Transportation options
- Campus life



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# Application Process

- Do I disclose my disability when applying?
- Contact disability services right away
- Contact voc rehab to help with funding
- Start researching grants/scholarships that may assist with funding as well



# I've been accepted...What's next?

- Immediately contact disability services
- Have proper documentation from physician with diagnosis and physical/cognitive limitations
- Find out pre-registration deadline for housing/classes



# Sample Letter for DS

Dear Emory Office of Disability Services,

This letter was requested by \_\_\_\_\_ for documentation of his medical condition. This letter contains personal health information (PHI) and, under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, disclosure of PHI to any other individuals or entities without express authorization from Reid Martin may result in a violation of federal law and severe penalties. Reid Martin has authorized disclosure of his PHI in this letter for the sole use of the Emory Office of Disability Services in developing his Individual Accommodation Plan.

\_\_\_\_\_ has been diagnosed with C7 tetraplegia, ASIA C due to a spinal cord injury on 3/12/2012. This injury was due to a diving accident. As a result, \_\_\_\_\_ has limited movement of his hands and non-functional movement of his lower extremities. He has secondary diagnoses of neurogenic bowel and neurogenic bladder. Reid requires a manual wheelchair for mobility. This condition is considered permanent.

\_\_\_\_\_s current medication regime should not have any effect on his ability to function within an academic environment. Following are the recommended accommodations for Reid while he attends college:

The ability to park as close as possible to his classes in handicap parking spaces, preferably without hills as he is not independent in his wheelchair going up or down steep hills  
Wheelchair accessible transportation between classes if they are close in time and far in distance  
Barrier free access to his classes, including sidewalks with curb cut-outs & elevators if needed for upper levels  
Access to a handicapped accessible bathroom (private or with private stall)

If you have further questions regarding this matter, please call Pam Summer, RN, BSN, Case Manager at 404-350-5555 or you may fax your requests to 404-367-5555. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.



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# Accommodations to ask for

- Accessible housing
- Testing taking options
- Parking on campus/accessible transportation
- Note taking and electronic text books
- Recording lectures
- Relocating classrooms
- Personal care assistants are usually not provided



# This entire process is on YOU

- It is up to the student to reach out to disability services-the earlier, the better
- You can disclose as much or as little as you want
- Meet with professors 1:1 to setup accommodations for particular classes
- Disability services is there to help you
- DS will provide letter for your professors

