

Tips to help you choose the right college. There are a number of questions regarding access, support, communication and security that students who are hard of hearing or deaf should ask before choosing a college. Asking these questions on your campus visits or in conversations with admissions counselors can help you select the college that is the best fit for you. Here are some tips on what to ask the colleges you're considering. Print out this page and take it with you on your college visits.

Around the campus

- How many deaf or hard-of-hearing students are there on campus?
- How does this college provide services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students?
- Are deaf and hard-of-hearing students mainstreamed with hearing students or in classes of their own?
- How are roommates selected? Does this college look for a match in communication styles?
- How about videophone availability?
- Do residence halls and other buildings on campus have strobes and flashing emergency fire alarms and alerting equipment?
- How easy is it to get in touch with campus safety authorities if I have a problem or an emergency?
- Are there sign language interpreters and captionists on staff at the college or are they hired from outside agencies?
- Are interpreters and captionists available for special campus events?
- Are there any scholarships to help keep my costs down?
- Is academic counseling available? Personal counseling?
- Do the academic and career counselors have experience working with deaf and hard-of-hearing students?
- What other services are provided on campus for students who are deaf or hard of hearing?
- Does the placement office have experience helping students with hearing loss find jobs after graduation?

In the community

- What services are provided in the community for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing?
- Do movie theaters in the community offer captioned movies?
- Are plays in local theaters interpreted? Do they offer assistive listening equipment?
- Are local merchants welcoming to college students?

In the classroom

- What's the ratio of faculty to students? What is the average number of students in a classroom?
- Are there notetakers I can use or is there other support for notetaking in the classrooms?
- If I need interpreting or notetaking services, how do I arrange for them?
- Is tutoring available if I need help?
- Are there real-time captioning services available for me in the classroom?
- Are the classrooms set up so that everyone can see the professors clearly?
- Are there assistive listening devices available for me to use in the classroom?

Hearing aids, cochlear implant and speech-language services

- Are there licensed audiologists on campus to provide support services for my cochlear implant? For my hearing aid?
- Where can I get hearing aid batteries? Repairs? New earmolds? Have my hearing tested if I feel I need it?
- Is there a way I can learn about new assistive technology that will help me in my schoolwork? In the workplace after I graduate?
- Are there speech-language pathologists I can work with on my spoken communication skills, if I choose to?
- What are my responsibilities in assuring I get the services I need?

Need more information?

Since 1968, RIT has been creating, refining and improving campus life and learning experiences for deaf and hard-of-hearing students attending college on our campus and throughout the world.

If you have other questions about choosing your college, feel free to contact our counselors at 585-475-6700, by videophone at 585-743-1366, or toll-free in the U.S. and Canada at 866-644-6843.