

Higher Ed and Students with Usher syndrome

Opening screen: Kevin (a male with short brown hair and grey collared shirt) sits in front of a dark blue background, looks into the camera and signs.

TRANSCRIPT: Hi! Today's topic is the higher ed experience. When a student with Usher syndrome is preparing for college, they should first contact their local vocational rehabilitation (VR) office. Their services are great! Let them know you have Usher. They'll support you! You can discuss your goals and the fact that you'll be going to college. VR will coordinate the necessary supports with your college. Your college will require medical verification of Usher syndrome. Bring that to your college's office for students with disabilities. Every college has one, although it may go by a different name. That statement from your doctor will allow the college to give you the services you need. VR and/or your college may work together to fund these services. Each state is different but what's most important is that they coordinate efforts to get you the services you need. Services may include: interpreters, guides, SSPs ProTactile, haptics, notetakers, accessible classrooms. It's possible that there are teachers or staff who know how to work with students with Usher syndrome. It could even be something as simple as being assigned to the dorm nearest to your classes. There may be a bus you can use to get around. Maybe you'd want to consider a service dog. Try to think of everything you may need. Take advantage of the services! They will help you to keep your focus so you can reach your educational goal. It's better to ask for these supports than to try and "make do" without them.

That would be tough. Thank you!