

TABLE 5.2

## Investigating Colleges Through Online Research

QUESTION	CONSIDERATIONS
<b>GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES</b>	
Where is the college located?	Will the student commute or live on campus? If the college is very far away, the student will be able to come home less often. Will the student need to take a train, bus, or plane to visit home?
What academic degrees does the college offer?	Does the college offer a degree in the student's field of interest? If the student isn't sure what degree to pursue, is there a variety of programs?
What are the college's basic entrance requirements?	They may require ACT or SAT scores, high school GPA, or specific course work (e.g., foreign language, algebra 2).
What is the cost of tuition, room, and board?	Students should be part of the discussion about how much the family can afford. If a college seems out of reach financially, what scholarships or other financial aid is available? Check online for special scholarships for students with disabilities (and see if they apply for 4 years or just the first year). Keep in mind that if students have to work while they're in college, they will have less time for their studies, which may impact their performance.
<b>SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES</b>	
Does the college have a DS office?	Is there a stand-alone office or are disability support services provided through another office or department?
Who provides support to students?	Some DS offices' web pages offer information about the backgrounds of the staff members explaining if they have degrees in special education or a related field, have worked in the disabilities field, and how many students they support.
How big a caseload do coordinators carry?	At some schools, there may be only one person coordinating disability services and accommodations, which raises questions about whether or not they have time for meetings if students request them.
What kinds of support does DS provide?	Record any information the page lists regarding commonly provided accommodations or services such as study skills classes or time management seminars, types of AT that are mentioned, and availability of staff who can help students learn to use the AT.
What other resources for academic help does the college offer?	Look for links to other resources for academic help on campus (e.g., math tutoring center or writing center).
What other resources for psychological help and mental health does the college offer?	Look for links to other resources that support students such as a health services office that can prescribe medication and refill prescriptions, available counseling, and information about that counseling (background of counselors and allotted frequency and duration of visits before students must seek treatment elsewhere).