

Questions to Help Teens Assess Their Tech-Readiness for College

There are three steps to evaluating a teenager's tech readiness for college and matching his skill level to specific college settings:

1. Evaluate the student's current technical skills.
2. Identify additional skills the student wants to learn.
3. Learn about the technology skill requirements at colleges you are considering.

This worksheet is designed to help you and your teenager with LD and/or AD/HD work through all three steps. Revisit the form and update it with your teen as he acquires new technology tools and skills.

Note: Assistive technology helps students with disabilities bypass or "work around" their academic weaknesses, while educational technology complements academic performance for all students.

Part I: Evaluate Your Current Educational Tech Skills

Have your teenager evaluate his current level of tech skills. Assist him as necessary.

What technology tools do you currently own or use? (Check all that apply)	Own it	Use it
iPod		
Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)		
Laptop/Desktop computer		
Audio Books		
Programmable wrist watch		
Text-to-speech technology (e.g., Kurzweil)		
Outlining software (e.g., Inspiration)		
Speech-to-text software (e.g., Dragon Naturally Speaking)		
Reading Pen		
Other _____		
Other _____		
Other _____		

What technology skills have you learned?	Rate Your Skills (Circle your response)		
How would you rate your overall computer skills? (e.g. installing software, moving and resizing the screen, organizing digital files and folders, using the help function)	Good	Average	Poor
How would you rate your word processing skills on a computer? (e.g., changing font size, color, copying and pasting information, applying header and footer and page numbering)	Good	Average	Poor
How good are your keyboarding skills?	Good	Average	Poor
Are you comfortable reading off the computer screen for long periods of time (e.g., 30 mins.)?	Yes	Somewhat	No
Do you use a portable word processor or laptop computer for writing assignments or taking notes in class?	Often	Sometimes	Never
Do you use the Internet to access your school's website for homework information, and do you use online textbooks?	Often	Sometimes	Never
How would you rate your overall skills in searching for information on the Internet? (e.g., using different search engines, bookmarking websites, using electronic databases, and navigating links)	Good	Average	Poor
How would you rate your electronic communication skills? (e.g., checking, creating and replying to email, sending email attachments, using text messaging, using social media, using video chat, using instant messaging, using a digital voice recorder, using a digital voice mail system, using a digital voice recorder, using a digital voice mail system, using a digital voice recorder, using a digital voice mail system)	Good	Average	Poor

