



In planning a successful transition to college, it is important to understand that accommodations differ between high school and college.

Comparing Disability Services Between High School and College

High School

Applicable Laws

- Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), mandates that students with disabilities are entitled to a “Free and Appropriate Public Education.”
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, subpart D, requires a school district to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to each child with a disability in the district’s jurisdiction.
- Either an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan determines services and accommodations, involves the teachers and counselors, and requires parental approval.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Students are identified and supported by teachers and parents.
- The school is responsible for providing the accommodations specified on the IEP.
- The public school may provide additional assessments and services.

Applicable Laws

- The Americans with Disability Act (ADA), prohibits discrimination on the basis disability in all public entities.
- Section 504, subpart E, applies to post-secondary education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. The institution does not have to make adjustments that would fundamentally alter the nature of the curriculum.
- 504 plans and IEPs do not exist on the college level.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Student must self-identify with Disability Support Services (DSS) to receive academic accommodations.
- The student is responsible for requesting academic accommodations for classes, programs, or activities.
- The college is not responsible for providing services of a personal nature (including medical, therapeutic, or prescriptive services).
- Students are responsible for attending class, and he/she may be dropped from courses due to excessive absences based on the college attendance policy.
- It is the student's choice whether to utilize or not utilize his/her approved accommodations in each of their classes.

Parent Involvement

- Parents must have the student's written consent to discuss disability-related matters.
- Help students develop self-advocacy skills.
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.

Teacher/Instructor Involvement

- According to Section 504, subpart E, colleges are not required to modify curriculum or assignments.
- Extended time (time and a half, double time) may be an appropriate accommodation; however tests are not typically broken into multiple testing sessions.