



Disability Services in High School & College

There are many differences between how disability services are provided at the K-12 level and at the college level. Below are some key points. The differences reflect the fact that students taking college coursework are responsible for making decisions as to their education.

Applicable Laws

High School	College
I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)	A.D.A.A.A. (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990)
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973	Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973
I.D.E.A. is about SUCCESS	A.D.A.A.A. is about ACCESS

Required Documentation

High School	College
School develops an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and/or 504 Plan.	Student must request specific accommodations and provide supporting evidence through documentation.
School provides evaluation at no cost to student.	Students must get evaluation at own expense.
Documentation focuses on determining whether student is eligible for services based on specific disability categories in I.D.E.A.	Documentation must provide information on specific functional limitations and demonstrate the need for specific accommodations.

Self Advocacy

High School	College
Student is identified by the school and is supported by parents and teachers.	Student must self-identify to the Office of Student Disability Services.
Primary responsibility for arranging accommodations belongs to the school.	Primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging accommodations belongs to the student.
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.	Instructors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.

Parental Role

High School	College
Parent has access to student records and can participate in the accommodation process.	Parent does not have access to student records without student's written consent.
Progress reports supplied to parents.	No progress reports supplied to parents.
The parent is the student's legal guardian.	The student is considered his/her own legal guardian.
Parent advocates for student.	Student advocates for self.

Instruction

High School	College
Teachers must follow the IEP to modify curriculum and/or alter pace of assignments.	Instructors are not required to modify curriculum design.
You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.	You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing.
Teachers remind you of your incomplete work or assignments.	Instructors may not remind you of incomplete work.
Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.	Instructors expect you to get notes you missed from classmates.

Grades and Tests

High School	College
IEP may include modifications to test format and/or grading	Grading and test format changes (i.e. multiple choice vs. essay) are generally not available. Accommodations to HOW tests are given (extended time, test proctors) are available when supported by disability documentation.
Makeup tests are often available.	Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.
Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.	Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline). The syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.

Study Responsibilities

High School	College
Tutoring and study support may be a service provided as part of an IEP or 504 Plan.	Tutoring DOES NOT fall under Student Disability Services. Students with disabilities must seek out tutoring resources as they are available to all students.
Your time and assignments are structured by others.	You manage your own time and complete assignments independently.
You may study outside of class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week.	You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.
Personal services for medical/physical disabilities are required.	No personal services are required.
Students are not solely responsible for knowing what is required to graduate or tracking their own progress.	Students are expected to select their own majors and are expected to learn the graduation requirements for their programs of study.