

Disability Services Differences Between High School and College

Students who received disability services in high school may notice a major shift in processes and coverage once they begin their college classes. These differences stem from federal laws that regulate secondary and post-secondary education. The following document provides a brief overview of the differences in services as well as tips regarding student expectations in a college setting.

APPLICABLE LAWS:

- High School: IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973
IDEA is about *success*
- College: ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title II, with 2008 Amendments)
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973
ADA is about *access*

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

- High School: IEP (Individual Education Plan) and/or 504 Plan
School provides evaluation at no cost
Documentation focuses on student eligibility for services based on IDEA categories
- College: IEP and 504 plans are not sufficient
Students must provide evaluation at own expense
Documentation must provide information on specific functional limitations
Documentation must demonstrate need for specific accommodations

SELF-ADVOCACY:

- High School: Students are identified by school and supported by parents and teachers
School bears primary responsibility for arranging accommodations
Teachers approach students if need for assistance exists
- College: Students must self-identify to Disability Services
Students bear primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging for classroom accommodations
Instructors are open and helpful, but students expected to initiate contact for services

INSTRUCTION:

- High School: Teachers can modify/alter curriculum and pace of assignments
Students expected to read short assignments that are often re-taught in class
Students seldom need to read anything more than once; listening in class may suffice
- College: Instructors not required to modify design or alter assignment deadlines
Students assigned substantial reading/writing assignments
Assignments may not be addressed in class
Students must review class notes and material regularly in order to succeed

PARENTAL ROLE:

- High School: Parent has access to records and can participate in accommodations process
Parent advocates for student
- College: Parent does not have access to records without written consent
Students advocate for self



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GRADES AND TESTS:

- High School: IEP or 504 plan may include modifications to test format and/or grading
 Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material
 Make-up tests are generally available
 Teachers often remind students of assignments and due dates
- College: Test format changes (true/false vs. essay) are generally not available
 Accommodations for how tests are given (e.g. test proctors, extended time) are only available with supported documentation
 Testing is usually infrequent and covers large amount of material
 Make-up tests are seldom offered and generally must be requested
 Instructors expect students to read, save and consult the course syllabus (which spells out exactly what is expected with due dates and grading details)

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STUDY:

- High School: Tutoring and study support may be provided by IEP/504 plan
 Study time and assignments are structured by teachers or others
 Study outside of class may involve less than 2 hours a week (generally in last-minute test preparation)
- College: Disability Services will assist with referrals for tutorial services through the Academic Support Center
 Students are responsible for scheduling appointment times with Academic Support
 Students are responsible for completing assignments independently (not the tutor)
 Study outside of class may involve at least 2 hours for each hour spent in class
 (3-credit class = 6 additional hours of study time per week)

CONDUCT:

- High School: Disruptive conduct may be accepted
- College: Students who are not able to abide by SPCC's Code of Conduct may be dismissed from the college.

QUESTIONS?

Call the Disability Services Department at the campus most convenient for you:

L.L. Polk Campus
Garibaldi 266

Old Charlotte Highway Campus
Building B, Student Services area

Tracie Carpenter
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704-272-5345

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