

Differences between High School and College Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Applicable Laws

High School	College
I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Education)	A.D.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. is about ACCESS

Required Documentation

High School	College
I.E.P (Individualized Education Plan and/or 504 Plan)	High School I.E.P and 504 are not sufficient. Documentation guidelines specify information needed for each category of disability.
School provides evaluation at no cost to student	Student 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 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.	Professors 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.
Parent advocates for student.	Student advocates for self.

Instruction

High School	College
Teachers may modify curriculum design.	Professors 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 which may not be directly addressed in class.
You seldom need to read anything more than once.	You need to review class notes and materials regularly.
Teachers remind you of incomplete assignments and homework.	Professors may not remind you of incomplete work or homework.
Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.	Professors expect you to get notes and materials from classmates when you miss class.
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.	Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.

Grades and Tests

High School	College
I.E.P or 504 plan 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.
Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.	Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material.
Makeup tests are often available.	Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them from the instructor.
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.
You may graduate as long as you have passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher.	You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard.
Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.	Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.

High School	College
Consistently good homework grades may raise your overall average when test grades are low.	Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.

Study Responsibilities

High School	College
Tutoring and study support may be a services provided as part of an I.E.P or 504 plan.	Tutoring DOES NOT fall under 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 per week, and this may be mostly last minute test preparation.	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 – like personal assistants and mobility training.	No personal services are required or provided.
Students are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.	Students are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.
Students are no responsible for knowing what is required to graduate or tracking their own progress.	Students are expected to select their own majors and/or minors and are expected to learn the graduation requirements for their program of study.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 20 U.S.C. 1232 g(d) states that generally speaking, parents of children who attend or have attended a school or facility that receives funding have rights under FERPA. When a student turns 18 years old or enters a post-secondary institution at any age, all rights afforded to parents under FERPA transfer to the student (“eligible student”). However, FERPA provides ways in which a school may – but is not required to – share information from an eligible student’s education records with parents, without the student’s consent.

For example: Schools may disclose education records to parents if the student is claimed as a dependent for tax purposes. Schools may disclose education records to parents if a health or safety emergency involves their son or daughter. Schools may inform parents if the student, if the student is under 21 and has violated any law or policy concerning the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Equal opportunity shall be afforded within TSC to all employees and applicants for admission or employment regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability