



Differences Between High School and College Disability Services

HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Applicable Laws

I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Educ. Act)
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973

A.D.A. (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,
A.D.A. Amendments Act of 2008),
Section 504 - Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Required Documentation

I.E.P. (Individual Education Plan)
504 Plan

Varies depending on the disability – must be current
and should contain recommendations for
accommodations (high school I.E.P. and 504 plans
are not sufficient by themselves)

School provides evaluation at no cost to student

Student must get evaluation at own expense

School conducts evaluations at prescribed intervals

Student must provide current documentation from
an appropriate and/or licensed professional

Identification of Disability

Student is identified by the school and is
supported by parents and teachers

Student **must self-identify** to the office/counselor
responsible for coordinating disability services

Primary responsibility for arranging
accommodations belongs to the school

Student is responsible for self advocacy and meeting
with the disability services counselor to obtain
accommodation forms for each class/instructor

Parental Role

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; student must
initiate and complete accommodation process

Parent advocates for student

Student advocates for self and should have frequent
contact with disability services counselor

Instruction

Teachers may modify curriculum and/or alter pace of assignments

Professors are not required to modify curriculum design or specific course requirements/projects/dates

Frequent use of multi-sensory tools

Tends to be lecture style; may or may not use multi-sensory approach; often online computer component

Weekly testing, mid-term, final, and graded assignments

Testing and assignment requirements vary and are often less frequent and cover more information at one time

Attendance taken and reported

Attendance policies are at discretion of instructor. Absences may be limited to a specific number of hours; if the student exceeds this number of hours may result in a lower grade

Grades and Tests

Grades may be modified based on curriculum

Grades reflect the quality of work submitted; student must request testing accommodations at the beginning of each semester

Transportation

School provides transportation at no cost

Student must arrange transportation to and from campus and for all college activities (unless transportation provided to all students participating in activity)

Conduct

Disruptive conduct may be accepted

Disruptive behavior is not accepted and disciplinary action will be taken

Most Important Differences in Summary

I.D.E.A. is about *Success*

A.D.A. is about *Access*

High School is mandatory and free

Postsecondary is voluntary and the student is responsible for the cost



disAbility Resources
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