

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE DISABILITY SERVICES

There is no Special Education at the college level. Educational rights covered by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act) do not apply to postsecondary education. Colleges must comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the civil Rights Restoration Act. College students have civil rights, but no “education” rights.

Postsecondary institutions are **required** to:

- *Make all programs and services physically accessible to all students*
- *Provide auxiliary aids, notetakers, and appropriate equipment to ensure the participation of students with disabilities in college classes and activities*
- *Accommodate the academic participation of qualified students with disabilities in college classes and activities*

Postsecondary institutions are **not required** to:

- *Provide specific auxiliary aids as long as the college provides a method of assistance that allows equal opportunity*
- *Provide academic modifications if these modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the course or program or place undue burden on the institution*
- *Lower admission criteria for applicants with disabilities*
- *Diagnose a disability or conduct testing and assessment of learning difficulties, physical, or mental impairments*
- *Provide personal attendants*
- *Provide personal or private tutors*
- *Prepare “Individualized Education Programs” (IEP’s)*

### Differences in Policies and Procedures

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student must self identify or disclose his/her disability</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school must provide the assessment of disability, classify disability, and involve parents</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student must provide documentation of his/her disability to the designated office</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School staff will discuss academic progress with parents or legal guardians</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student is considered an adult with privacy and confidentiality protections. Staff cannot talk with parents or legal guardians about the student’s academic progress</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school must develop an Individualized Educational Program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student must request specific accommodations and provide supporting evidence through documentation</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school must provide a free and appropriate education including modified program and appropriate related services</li> <li>• The school must coordinate the provision of all services, monitor progress, and evaluate results</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student must act as independent adults to activate and obtain accommodations and structure weekly schedules</li> <li>• The college must provide reasonable</li> </ul>           |

## Differences in Courses

High School