

College Bound with an IEP or 504

What you need to know.

Not all 4-year colleges are the same!

- Some colleges specifically target students with disabilities
- Some colleges provide special programs for students with disabilities, and these programs may require a significant cost above and beyond tuition
- Some colleges offer nothing beyond the generic academic supports available to all students at that school

2 year colleges . . .

often have a great deal of academic support available due to the nature of their population

- Can be a very good value in terms of cost
- Can provide a smooth transition from high school to college
- Some 2 year schools have residential campuses and/or articulation agreements with 4 year schools

Agnes Accommodations vs. Academic Support

- Unlike high school, accommodations and services for students with IEPs or 504 are **not always required by the colleges or university's**, and when they are available they may be fee-based services. It is up to you to find out what is available at any school you are interested in, and to be certain that you qualify for – and, if necessary, can afford – whatever is available

How do I qualify for accommodations in college?

You will generally need **recent** (usually within 2 years) cognitive, psychological and/or medical testing to support your request for accommodations

- The testing results must be from the adult version of the evaluation as opposed to an assessment designed for children or adolescents
- Your documentation must clearly support the accommodation(s) that you are requesting
- According to regulation, school districts are not responsible to provide testing for purposes of college accommodations

A: How do I know that I have the right documentation?

Ask the college!!

- It is very important that you check with the schools you are considering attending to be sure that you have documents and/or assessments that meet their specific requirements
- If something is lacking, you must be sure to provide it prior to attending the school
- Your high school IEP or 504 Plan alone (in most cases) will not be sufficient to ensure your eligibility for accommodations at a college or university

Should I keep my disability a secret when I apply?

Every college representative we speak with says that you should feel free to discuss any concerns related to your disability. They will not hold it against you in any way.

You should not waste applications on schools that will not meet your needs. You should do your homework – including speaking to representatives from the college's office of disability services – prior to deciding if the school is potentially a good match for you.

The school district will not disclose that your child has an IEP or 504.



Important differences between high school and college

In high school, the district is responsible for the identification and evaluation of disabilities at no cost to the parents

- In college, the student must self-identify, self-advocate and provide appropriate documentation of the disability
- If an evaluation is required, it will be at parental/student expense
- If the student does not take advantage of testing accommodations, you will not be notified and no one will look for the student to encourage the student to do so

FERPA

FERPA is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. It doesn't apply to high school students so information is shared with parents.

- In college, without written permission from the student, personnel cannot discuss the student with you
- Even with written permission, the information available to you will not be nearly as extensive as what is available in high school

Before your child begins his/her freshman year

Be sure that you and your child are in agreement with regard to expectations and obligations

Be sure that your child is fully familiar with everything available at the college that can be helpful, knows how to access that assistance and – if accommodations are being requested – that all necessary documentation is in and the request is approved prior to the start of the semester



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Helpful Links

- http://www.hofstra.edu/pdf/StudentAffairs/stdadis/stdadis_21149PALSbrochure.pdf
- <http://www.collegeacademicsupport.com>
- <http://www.greatschools.org/special-education/health/913-college-planning.gs?page=all>
- <http://www.collegexpress.com/lists/list/colleges-where-students-with-learning-disabilities-can-and-do-make-it/401/>

Helpful Links (cont.)

- http://www.college-scholarships.com/learning_disabilities.htm
- <http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/disabled-students/>

For college entrance examinations (PSAT, SAT, AP, ACT and SAT Subject Tests) testing accommodations:

- <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>
- <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/disab/>

