

## Differences between high school & college for students with disabilities

### Applicable Laws

K-12	College
IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)	ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title III - for private institutions)
IDEA is designed to promote <i>student success</i>	ADA is designed for <i>equal access</i> to the campus and educational programs
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973	Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973

### Required Documentation

K-12	College
IEP (Individual Education Plan) and/or 504 Plan	High school IEP and/or 504 usually do not apply
School provides evaluation at no cost to student	College does not always pay for evaluation. In some cases, community colleges provide Learning Disabilities assessment
Eligibility documentation focuses on determining whether student is eligible for services based on specific disability categories in IDEA	Eligibility documentation must provide information on specific functional limitations and demonstrate the need for specific accommodations

### Self-Advocacy

K-12	College
Student's learning issue is identified by the school and is supported by parents and teachers	Student must self-identify learning issue to the Student Disability Center
School has the primary responsibility for arranging accommodations	Student has the primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging accommodations each time they are needed
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance	Professors normally expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance

### Parental Role

K-12	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 permission (FERPA)
Parent often advocates for student	Student must advocate for self

### Instruction

K-12	College
Teachers may modify curriculum and/alter curriculum pace of assignments	The college makes reasonable adjustments in instructional programs which do not constitute a fundamental alteration of a course or program.
You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed and often re-taught in class	Large amounts of reading and writing (which may not be directly addressed in class) is usually necessary
Class schedule usually stays the same every day	Class schedule often changes from day to day, requiring extra planning

### Grades & Tests

K-12	College
IEP or 504 plan may include modifications to test format and/or grading	Grading and test format changes (multiple choice vs. essay) are generally not available. Accommodations regarding <i>how</i> tests are given (extended time, test proctors, distraction-free environment, etc) are available only when supported by disability documentation
Tests are frequent and cover small amounts of material	Tests are usually infrequent and cover large amounts of material

Makeup tests are often available	Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them
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

### **Study Responsibilities**

<b><u>K-12</u></b>	<b>College</b>
Your time and assignments are structured by others	You manage your own time and complete assignments independently
You may study outside class as little as 0 to 2 hours a 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