



Moorpark College ACCESS

Transition from High School to College



Different Laws Apply

- The IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) is a law that says all children with disabilities are entitled to free special education services from pre-school through high school.
- Once a student leaves high school, however, they are no longer eligible for the services guaranteed to them by IDEA.
- Fortunately, college students are still protected under other laws, including the ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. These laws prohibit most colleges from discriminating against people with disabilities and require them to provide equal opportunities.
- Section 504 states: "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States... shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...."

For more information:

Graduate School of Education & Human Development – A Spotlight on Section 504

<https://bit.ly/2C9EaT0>

Going to College – A Resource for Teens with Disabilities

<https://bit.ly/2nHph4d>

U.S. Department of Education

<https://bit.ly/2r2XzSB>

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

<https://bit.ly/2MPmLEc>

Things to Remember:

- Students in colleges and universities are considered adults, with more privacy and confidentiality protections than high school students. For example, college staff cannot talk with parents and guardians about a student's academic activities as teachers do in high school.
- In high school, the special education services are given to you based on your diagnosis.
- In college, the accommodations you are eligible for are based on how a disability affects your ability to do certain important activities in life, such as your education.
- In high school, students often get time in school to study (for example, study hall or class time for homework). In college, students must plan their own study time outside of class.
- In high school, attendance rules are usually the same for all classes. In college, professors might differ when it comes to attendance requirements, due dates, and exams. College students are expected to review and follow each professor's syllabus, which will state the specific rules and due dates for each class.
- Students with disabilities need to identify their disabilities and take action to request accommodations, as well as provide documentation to the college's disability office (such as psycho-educational test results, medical documents, IEPs). This documentation should **verify** the disability, **describe** how much of an impact it has, and show **why** you need a specific accommodation.

Comparison of High School Responsibilities and College Responsibilities

High School Responsibilities	College Responsibilities
Identify students with disabilities	Inform students of office location and procedures for requesting accommodations
Provide assessment of learning disabilities	Accept and evaluate verifying documentation. Even though it is not required, some colleges provide LD assessment
Provide a free and appropriate education	Inform students of their rights and responsibilities
Involve parents or guardians in placement decisions	Protect a student's right to privacy and confidentiality
Provide certain non-academic services such as transportation and services by the school nurse or health office	Assure that off-campus and contracted program facilities also comply with Section 504 (Subpart E) and ADA are equally accessible
Structure a large part of the student's weekly schedule and place students, with parent participation and approval, in programs where they can benefit	Determine whether students are otherwise qualified for participation in the program or service, with or without accommodations, and if so, whether a reasonable accommodation is possible
Prepare Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)	Provide equal access to programs and services which are accessible to persons without disabilities
Modify educational programs as needed	Make reasonable adjustments in teaching methods which do not alter the essential content of a course or program

(Other differences may exist for colleges and post-secondary institutions that provide housing programs, health services, psychological/counseling services, and extensive international programs)

College students have a responsibility to:

- Self-identify or disclose their disability to the college disability office, if they want to receive disability-related support
- Provide verifying documentation, such as assessments and test results
- Arrange their own weekly schedules
- Contact their instructors to set up accommodations for each class
- Arrange for and obtain their own personal attendants, tutoring, and individually fitted or designed assistive technologies

Colleges are not required to:

- Reduce or remove any of the essential requirements of a course or program
- Conduct testing and assessment of learning, psychological or medical disabilities
- Provide personal attendants
- Provide personal or private tutors (but tutoring services normally available to persons without disabilities must be accessible to persons with disabilities who are otherwise qualified for those services)
- Prepare "Individual Education Plans" (IEPs)