

Patient's Guide

Starting College Tips for Special Education and Disabled Students

No One Can Stop Me Now

Young people with learning, mental health, and/or physical disabilities have the same rights to access college programs as their non-disabled peers.

Colleges and post-secondary programs are required to provide accommodations to students with disabilities (section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

Here are some helpful tips for college-bound students to get the assistance they need.



Start Off on the Right Foot

Students and Families Must Ask for Accommodations

Unlike elementary or high school, disabled students in college must seek out and ask for accommodations. The obligation is on the student and not on the college.

1. Call the college and find out which person or department is in charge of accommodations for students.
2. Arrange to meet with the person/department before school starts to develop an accommodation plan.
3. Provide documentation of the disability.

Curriculum vs. Access

1. The college is not required to change the curriculum or academic requirements of their classes even for students with disabilities.
2. The college is required to make academic programming accessible to the student, regardless of disability.

Suggested Lists of Accommodations

There is no pre-existing list of college accommodations for disabled students. The accommodation that a student needs is based on his/her specific disability.

Here are some possible accommodations:

Classes

Class recorded
Remote attendance (Skype, etc) or online classes
Note taker
Assisted technology
Tutor or Interpreter

Housing and Access

Housing with accommodations
(handicapped access, near classroom buildings, dining hall, etc)
Transportation on campus
Priority parking

Medical

Emergency plan
Access to medical services
Transportation to physician and hospital

If you have questions, please contact:

Center for Children's Advocacy
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