

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABLED COLLEGE STUDENTS

Disability accommodations in college are those supports and services provided at no cost to eligible students with documented disabilities or medical conditions to ensure equal access and opportunity to benefit from classes, programs, and activities.

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

Obtaining approval for accommodations in college is a very different process than in high school. The laws that govern services for disabled students change when you move from high school (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-IDEA, to college (Americans with Disabilities Act-ADA and Rehabilitation Act of 1973). As a result, procedures for qualifying for and procuring services are different.

	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL PLANS (IEP)	Students have access to services through an IEP or 504 Plan.	IEPs/504s are not used. Classes include students with and without disabilities. The curriculum is not modified for disabled students. The services you receive will depend on your individual needs and your disability documentation.
RECEIVING ACCOMMODATIONS	Students are identified and provided services by the school.	You must initiate the process by registering with the Accommodations & Accessibility Services (AAS) Coordinator on campus.
ADVOCATES	Teachers, parents, and students advocate for services.	You will need to seek help when you need assistance and advocate for yourself. Faculty will expect to talk to you, not your parents, when learning about the accommodations you need in their class or if an issue arises.
PARENTAL ROLE	Parents can see student records and must give permission for any decisions for the student.	Students are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Parents do not communicate with your faculty, with AAS personnel, or have access to your records, grades, or personal information.

ACCOMMODATIONS & ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (AAS) AT RIVERSIDE

REGISTERING FOR ACCOMMODATIONS	<p>To pursue accommodations and services at the college level, you must register as a student with a disability or short-term medical condition. This should take place soon after you have accepted admission or prior to scheduling entrance testing. Contact the AAS office for information on the procedures for requesting accommodations. AAS personnel will discuss your individual needs and determine if you are eligible for services. Again, under federal law, <i>parents play no role in this process!</i></p> <p><u>If you have a service animal</u>, please contact AAS for important information on your responsibilities for and restrictions of service animals on campus and in clinical areas.</p> <p><u>If you are or become pregnant</u> while enrolled, you are encouraged to notify AAS if you have concerns about your ability to fully participate in class, lab, and/or clinical experiences, or to meet the academic requirements of your program.</p>
ACCOMMODATIONS MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL	Do not expect to have the same accommodations in college as you had in high school. In high school, you were provided accommodations to ensure your participation in the general curriculum. In college, you must initiate the process to receive accommodations. Accommodations are based on your individual needs <i>and</i> the curricular requirements of the program you are entering. Also, accommodations authorized by one college many be different from those authorized by another college.
COMMON ACCOMMODATIONS THAT WE CAN PROVIDE	Some of the more common accommodations provided for our students include permission to record lectures, preferential classroom seating, extended time on tests, testing in a distraction-reduced environment, and copies of lecture notes. However, the accommodations we provide for you will be based on your individual needs, curricular requirements, and the documentation that you provide.
DISABILITY DOCUMENTATION	You will be required to provide documentation of your disability or medical condition to receive accommodations. When meeting with AAS personnel, provide any documentation that you already have (IEP, letter of accommodation from another school, psychoeducational evaluation, etc.). AAS personnel will assist you with any additional documentation that may be needed. Once your accommodations are approved, AAS will provide a letter listing your authorized accommodations that you can share with your faculty.
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING YOUR FACULTY	Under the ADA, you are the person responsible for communicating your accommodation needs to the faculty. You will need to meet with each of your instructors to share the accommodation letter you were provided by the Accommodations & Accessibility Coordinator, preferably before the start of each semester or course!
PRIVACY	ADA law protects your privacy throughout this process. AAS personnel do not share your personal information or disability status without your signed consent.

HAVE QUESTIONS? Call 757-240-2462 (Nursing Programs) or 757-240-2258 (Allied Health Programs)