



TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

How Disability Services Differ Between High School and College

As you transition from high school to college, you will find the world of services and accommodations for students with disabilities dramatically different. One of the first changes you will experience is that colleges are not permitted to ask if you have a disability when you apply for admission. If you would like to receive disability accommodations, it is your responsibility to identify yourself to Gavilan College's Accessible Education Center in Library 117.

There are several important pieces of federal legislation that you may need to understand. Some of the laws that protect the rights of adults with disabilities include:

Anti-Discrimination

- American's With Disabilities Act of 1990 - Extends universal civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities covering public and private sector employment, public accommodations, transportation, and telephone communication.

Educational Access

- Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973) - "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, 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...".
- Section 508 (The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 Amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) - Section 508 requires federal agencies that develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic technology to provide to federal employees with disabilities comparable access to that technology and information that federal employees without disabilities are afforded.
- Senate Bill 105 - SB 105 mandates that Section 508 accessibility standards be implemented in the state of California.

Confidentiality

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 - All students over the age of 18 are free to access their own student records, request changes to their student records, and "to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from these records." Parents of children over the age of 18 are not permitted to access their child's student records, as protected under FERPA.

Below is a table that outlines the differences between high school and college disability services.

Difference Between K-12 Education and College

K-12 IDEA '04	K-12 504 Plan	College 504, ADA & FERPA
Student records are accessible to student and parents	Student records are accessible to student and parents	Any enrolled college student's records are only accessible to the student (not the parents)
Special consideration for behavior problem	Must follow high school behavior code	Must follow college code of conduct; no special consideration
District identifies disability	Parent provides documentation of disability	Student responsibility to provide documentation of disability and need for accommodation
Success more of a right	No guarantee for student success	No guarantee; student responsible for own success
Special education classes	Regular class curriculum with modification	No special education classes; disability support office's role is to accommodate student in college level classes
Free evaluation of disability	Parent responsibility	Student responsibility
District develops Individual Education Plan (IEP)	Services determined by Plan	Student initiates requests for accommodation needs
District ensures that the IEP is implemented	District/parent/student responsible	Student responsible for own progress
Entitled to services identified on IEP	Services determined by Plan	College services not automatic; each college determines eligibility and services
Fundamental modifications to program of study permitted as identified on IEP	Fundamental modifications to program of study permitted as identified on 504 Plan	No fundamental modifications allowed: Accommodations may not alter fundamental nature of course or impose an undue burden on an institution
Teacher advocate	Parent/student advocate	Student advocates for self
Personal services: e.g., transportation, personal attendant, nurse	No personal services provided	No personal services provided

For more detailed information on Transitioning from High School to College, you can review the publication developed by Mesa College, Disability Support Programs and Services called, *"Catching the Wave From High School to College: A Guide to Transitioning from High School to College"* (http://www.gavilan.edu/student/aec/docs/catch_the_wave.acc_08.20.17.pdf).