



Cornerstone
UNIVERSITY

Center for
Academic Success

Attribution: The Advocacy Consortium and [Learning Disabilities Association of America](#)

Differences Between High School and College / University Accommodations	
High School	College / University
Focus is to promote SUCCESS	Focus is to provide ACCESS
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is implemented at the secondary school level with an aim toward success for all students entitled to a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) at their Local Education Agency (LEA)	The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act guides college/university-level accommodation policy with an aim toward access for “otherwise qualified” students based on the institution’s admission criteria
Modification of instruction and curriculum are commonly provided in response to student learning needs to achieve curricula learning outcomes	Through a robust application process, reasonable accommodations are identified to ensure equal access and participation. Students are responsible for meeting the standards of the course, and essential elements of the course objectives cannot be modified

Differences Between High School and College / University Accommodations

<p>The LEA is responsible for identifying a student's disability, determining eligibility for services, and implementing appropriate accommodations</p>	<p>Students identify their request for services to the disability office and provide documentation that verifies eligibility for accommodations specific to a functional limitation</p>
<p>Cost of evaluations are responsibility of the LEA</p>	<p>Cost of evaluations are responsibility of the student</p>
<p>Individual Education Plans or 504 Plans are created to guide the student's instruction and mandate services</p>	<p>Higher education institutions do not develop comparable individual education plans, but do outline approved reasonable accommodations to students in writing</p>
<p>Teachers and parents arrange services and assistance <i>for the student</i></p>	<p><i>Students must initiate</i> request for services and arrange required accommodations</p>
<p>School-based services based on demonstrated need are put in place to promote <i>success</i>, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special education classes • Co-teaching and resource room • Teaching assistants or personal aides • Speech therapy/OT/PT providers • Extended time exams 	<p>College accommodations are intended to mitigate the impact of disability based on eligibility to ensure <i>access</i>, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative testing arrangements • Assistive technology/software • Alternative formats • Communication access services
<p>Personal aide services are arranged and provided by school district</p>	<p>College is not responsible for personal aide services</p>
<p>Teachers and parents remind students to complete homework, help in exam preparation, and aid with time management</p>	<p>Students independently plan homework and create reading and study schedules</p>

Differences Between High School and College / University Accommodations

<p>High school provides a highly regimented, closely monitored schedule with homework assigned at regular intervals</p>	<p>College schedule has more free, unstructured time; classes meet less frequently, have more difficult homework, and often require extensive reading</p>
<p>Parents communicate routinely with teachers, and can easily monitor student academic progress</p>	<p>Parents have no contact with instructors, and written consent is required to access student progress via a FERPA waiver</p>
<p>Parents and teachers guide and intervene on the student's behalf, recommending strategies and supports</p>	<p>Students need to self-advocate, articulate their needs for services and accommodations proactively, and pursue resources on campus for assistance</p>