

Office of Disability Services

Differences between High School and College Disability Services
High School
College/University
Applicable Laws

I.D.E.A. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973	ADA Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title 11; ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973
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Required Documentation

IEP (Individual Education Plan)	Varies depending on the disability; high school IEP and 504 may not be sufficient; the testing on which the accommodations are based should be included
The school provides evaluation at no cost to student.	The student must be evaluated at own expense.
The school conducts evaluations at prescribed intervals.	The student must provide approved documentation, no more than three years old.

Identification of Disability

The student is identified by the school and is supported by parents and teachers.	The student MUST self-identify with the Office of Disability Services.
Primary responsibility for arranging accommodations belongs to the school.	Primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging accommodations belongs to the student.

Parental Role

The parent has access to student records and can participate in the accommodation process.	The parent does not have access to student records without student's written consent; student must initiate and complete accommodations process.
The parent advocates for the student.	Student advocates for self and must have frequent contact with the counselor.

Transportation

The school provides transportation at no cost.	The student must arrange transportation. Special transportation service is available through the city of Tuscaloosa.
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Instruction

Teachers may alter curriculum and/or alter pace of assignments.	Professors and instructors are not required to modify curriculum design.
Frequent use of multi-sensory tools	Tends to be lecture style; may or may not use multi-sensory approach; labs required for some courses
Weekly testing, mid-term, final, and graded assignments	Testing and assignment frequency varies.
Attendance is taken and reported.	Attendance is taken and absences are limited to a specific number of hours; if this number of hours is exceeded, a lower grade may be received.

Grades and Tests

Grades may be modified based on curriculum.	Grades reflect the quality of work submitted; the student should request testing accommodations at the beginning of the semester. Accommodations are not retro-active.
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Conduct

Disruptive conduct may be accepted.	Disruptive behavior and the inability to abide by the institution's code of conduct are deemed "not qualified," and the student may be dismissed.
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Most Important Differences in Summary

IDEA is about success .	ADA is about access .
High school is mandatory and free.	Post-secondary is voluntary and the student is responsible for the cost.