

Tips on Transition High School to College

DIFFERENCES IN LEGAL PROTECTION

High School

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

An “entitlement” law intended to guarantee persons with disabilities the right to a free and appropriate education.

“Appropriate” education is determined by the school system and the **parents** and is based upon the child’s specific needs, strengths, and goals. Supports, services and modifications are provided to help the child attain his/her goals.

College

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

Civil rights (non-discrimination) laws intended to guarantee persons with disabilities access to college services, programs and activities. Reasonable accommodations are provided.

“Reasonable accommodations” do not fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program or activity in which the student is participating.

Students are responsible for making accommodation requests.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Students 18 years or older or who attend a postsecondary institution will not have their educational records (other than directory information) disclosed without their written consent. This includes disclosure to parents.

COLLEGE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Advocate

- Understand the impacts of your disability on your educational goals
- Make an appointment with your Office of Disabled Student Services as soon as you are admitted to the college

Determine

- What you will study and remember;
 - college is harder than high school
 - there are no class, test or assignment modifications
- How many classes you can handle (time/stress management)
- The amount of time you have to study (work/family obligations)
- Your classes and set your schedule (time of day, type of class, breaks)
- Transportation to and from school (attendance is essential)

Act

- Make effective use of your accommodations
- Monitor your progress and assignments (there is no one to remind you of work that needs to be done)
- Prioritize your time (average study time is double class time)
- Study independently or with peers and use tutoring when necessary
- Utilize available support services such as counseling, advising, career and employment and the students assistance program
- Understand the progression and purpose of your classes and your degree plan
- Know that colleges have “codes of conduct” *for everyone* outlining appropriate student behavior