

# UNDERSTANDING LEARNING DIFFERENCES IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

## HIGH SCHOOL

## COLLEGE

## RESOURCES

### HOW TO QUALIFY FOR SERVICES

An **IEP** or **504** (often based on a neuropsychological evaluation) is required.

Staff will identify and evaluate needs and determine modifications.

Documentation such as a neuropsychological evaluation (completed within 2-3 years) or a letter from a doctor or therapist that states the diagnosis can be used. **IEPs or 504s do not carry over to college.**

A college student must self-identify and self-advocate and request accommodations.

<https://ldaamerica.org/info/learning-disabilities-and-the-law-after-high-school-an-overview-for-students-2/>

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/choosing-starting-school/leaving-high-school/are-there-ieps-and-504-plans-in-college>

### ACCOMMODATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

High schools are required to provide accommodations and modifications according to the disability.

Assignments and expectations will be modified as appropriate.

**EXAMPLES OF MODIFICATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS:**

- Shorter tests
- Alternative books
- Exemption from foreign language requirements
- Preferential seating

Colleges reduce barriers so that students have equal access to learning. Students receive accommodations that allow for equal access.

**Assignments, tests, and expectations are not modified.** Modifications that a student had in high school will not be granted in college.

**EXAMPLES OF ACCOMMODATIONS:**

- Extended time for tests
- Taking tests in quiet areas
- Use of audio books
- Notes provided

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/treatments-approaches/educational-strategies/the-difference-between-accommodations-and-modifications>

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/college-planning-with-learning-disabilities/>

### WHAT DOES ACCESS MEAN?

Access is providing needed supports so that the student is successful and achieves their academic goals.

High schools are required to focus on the **success** of their students.

**EXAMPLE:**

- 7th grade student successfully reads a book at her 5th grade level.

Access is providing supports so that the student can learn the content..

Colleges are **not** required to guarantee success. They only ensure that students have the accommodations they need to learn.

**EXAMPLE:**

- Student has access to professor's notes so that they can learn the material.

[www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/09/there-is-no-right-way-to-learn/501044/](http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/09/there-is-no-right-way-to-learn/501044/)

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The **K-12 SCHOOL** is responsible for:

- identifying needs
- evaluating
- providing necessary modifications and accommodations.

The **COLLEGE STUDENT** is responsible for:

- self-identifying
- self-advocating
- providing documentation
- requesting accommodations
- managing academic progress.

The **COLLEGE** is responsible for providing reasonable accommodations; may vary by school.

<https://www.nclد.org/news/policy-and-advocacy/life-with-ld-navigating-the-transition-to-college/>

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

As a student with learning differences, you have the right to equal access to education in college, but it is your responsibility to disclose your learning differences and request accommodations. If you do not disclose, you will not receive the accommodations you may need.

You also must be ready to take on the responsibilities of managing your academic life. No one will keep track of your assignments. No one will remind you to turn in that paper or study for that test or go to class. It's a big change from high school, so making sure that you receive the accommodations you need will go a long way in helping you be successful in college.