

Transitioning Accommodations from High School into College

STUDENT ACCESS AT DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY

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College is different than high school

Higher Education Institutions are committed to providing reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities **at no cost** to the student. It may look different than what a student experienced in high school. Here are a few differences.

1. Students are their own advocates in college. Students are expected to exercise greater self-advocacy and independence than in high school. A team of people will **not** be educating instructors on a student's disability in college. Instead, the student will present accommodations to instructors.
2. Colleges will provide reasonable accommodations but will not identify or assess disabilities. There are different laws for colleges than in the public school system. The public K-12 system is required to identify, assess, and provide accommodations for students with disabilities. Colleges do not have the obligation to identify or assess students for disabilities, but are required to provide reasonable accommodations to a student who provides evidence of a disability.
3. Colleges are committed to providing equal access, but have different goals than a public school system. The goal of Public School is to ensure everything is done to assist the student in *succeeding*. In a higher education institution, the goal is to provide equal access to education and services, not to ensure success.

DEFINITION OF ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodations are adaptations or services that assists the student in gaining equal access to education through the removal of barriers caused by one's disability.

Comparison of High School & Collegiate Accommodations

High School	College
<p>Involvement & Advocacy</p> <p>The student's guardian and applicable school personnel serve as the primary advocates</p>	<p>The student serves as their own advocate with the assistance of the Student Access Coordinator</p> <p>Instructors are not privy to disability information</p>
<p>Accommodations & Services</p> <p>Public schools provide non-academic services to student including, but not limited to, health services</p> <p>Teachers assist with students' priorities, progress, responsibilities, and goals</p> <p>Teachers may reward "good-faith effort"</p>	<p>Davenport does not provide health services</p> <p>The student is responsible for all coursework, priorities, progress, and goals</p> <p>Tutors are available to assist any student as needed</p>
<p>Confidentiality</p> <p>The student's IEP or 504 Plan may be shared between applicable school personnel</p>	<p>Davenport is obligated to protect a student's confidentiality and will not disclose information without a signed FERPA on file referencing student access</p>
<p>Pursuit of Education</p> <p>A student covered by IDEA has a legal entitlement to an education regardless of disability</p> <p>Education must be offered in the least restrictive environment</p> <p>The school is to do <u>everything</u> it can to help the individual <u>succeed</u></p>	<p>A college education is not an entitlement</p> <p>Access to education is a civil right</p> <p>Institutions are obligated to provide equal access utilizing reasonable accommodations for students to participate in their education</p> <p>A college education is a voluntary opportunity; institutions support students but are <u>not obligated</u> to ensure that the individual succeeds</p>
<p>Individual Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Plans</p> <p>Education plans (IEP or 504) are required for students with assessed disabilities</p>	<p>An IEP or 504 Plan is NOT binding and may not provide sufficient evidence of a disability within a higher education institution</p>
<p>Applicable Laws</p> <p>Individuals With Disabilities Act (IDEA) Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Civil Rights Restoration Act</p>	<p>Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Civil Rights Restoration Act</p>

Should I disclose my disability? And to whom?

The decision to disclose a disability belongs to the person with the disability. Disclosure is a personal choice and in college, a student may determine with whom and when to share such information. A student is not required to disclose at any point in college however, in order to receive accommodations, the student must explain and provide evidence regarding their disability to the Student Access Coordinator.

When disclosing to a Student Access Coordinator, a student will want to specify how the disability affects their ability to learn or perform effectively in the educational setting. In addition, the student should explain what kind of support services or environment(s) would provide equal access to them. This may include some of the accommodations received in high school, but may not be all of them. The student is able to request the accommodations which they believe served them best.

How do I start the accommodation process at DU?

A student should submit two documents to the Student Access Coordinator at their campus.

These documents include:

1. Accommodation Request Form (ARF)
2. Verification of Disability Form (VOD) or similar evidence of disability

Evidence of a disability includes medical documentation detailing the students diagnosis for a specific disability.

Evidence **may** include a note from a medical provider or the completed Verification of Disability Form (VOD).

Providing an IEP or 504 plan as evidence may require additional medical documentation.

All medical documentation should detail how the disability impacts academic performance and give educational recommendations for appropriate accommodations in the collegiate setting.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Medical documentation verifying a disability is secure within Student Access. Only Student Access Coordinators and the ADA Coordinator have access to these files. A diagnosis and supporting documents will not be shared beyond Student Access without written authorization from the student. The student may freely share their personal and medical information.

WHO IS MY STUDENT ACCESS COORDINATOR?

There is a Student Access Coordinator at each Davenport location. Visit the Student Access website to identify contact information for your coordinator.

<https://www.davenport.edu/campus-life/student-access/student-access-coordinators>