

## Post- Secondary School for students with disabilities

As a student with a disability entering post-secondary education, you are entitled to help. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the American Disability Act protects elementary, secondary and postsecondary students from discrimination in any school that receives federal money such as a public college. Several of the requirements that apply through high school are different from the requirements that apply beyond high school. Post-secondary schools are required to provide reasonable accommodation as necessary to ensure the school does not discriminate based on disability.

When applying for admission into a post-secondary school, inquiries as to whether a person has a disability are not permissible. The school may not use a test that has been shown to be discriminatory for persons with disabilities as sole criteria for admission.

After you have been accepted, you will need to provide documentation of the disability to the school in order to receive modifications and accommodations. Documentation should include a letter from your physician explaining medical aspects of the disability and how the disability will affect your post-graduate education. Information from your high school regarding services that were provided previously such as your IEP or 504 plans is also necessary. Each school's requirements may be different.

Some examples of modifications and accommodations that may be provided in college or other post secondary schools are:

- ❖ extra time to complete exams
- ❖ individually proctored exams or other accommodations
- ❖ alternative means to demonstrate course mastery
- ❖ use of computer software programs or other assistive technological devices
- ❖ extended time
- ❖ provide services such as readers for students with blindness, visual impairments or learning disabilities
- ❖ note takers for students with deafness or hearing impairments, learning disabilities or orthopedic impairments

The final modifications and accommodations will need to be assessed for each individual based on their needs in accordance with the federal and state laws. In post-secondary school, the student is not eligible for any free special education or related services. More detailed examples of potential modifications are listed below.

### Some Classroom modifications/accommodations:

- \*Preferential seating
- \*Provide copies of material to be copied from book or board
- \*Provide copies of notes (from another student)
- \*Peer Tutoring
- \*Performance Contract
- \*Highlighted textbook
- \* Second set of textbooks for at home
- \* Taped materials
- \* Unlimited Bathroom breaks

### Some Assignment accommodations/modifications:

- \* Assignment Book

- \* Abbreviated assignments
- \* Additional time
- \* Study guide
- \* Extra Grade Opportunity

Some Testing accommodations/modifications:

- \* Extended time
- \* Reading aloud for internal instructions
- \* Reading out loud for test items
- \* Repeating directions verbatim
- \* Use of calculator
- \* Use of word processor with or without talk text technology
- \* Modified test format
- \* Retesting

**What do you do if a plan is denied or not being followed?**

Most post-secondary schools will have a person who coordinates the school's compliance with Section 504 or Title II laws. The school also must have grievance procedures, which differ from due process procedures. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome using the school's grievance procedures, or you wish to pursue an alternative to the grievance procedures, you may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights.

**Resources:**

US Office of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS)

<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep>

Federal Resource Center for Special Education

<http://www.dssc.org/frc/>

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