

This information sheet highlights some of the differences students experience between high school and college.

K-12 Experience for Students with Disabilities: Education is mandatory and free.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- Trained to teach/ trained as an educator.
- Helps students learn and process information.
- Checks students' work and provides feedback.
- Reviews assignments, test material, and due dates.
- Reminds students of incomplete work.
- Structures time for students.
- Initiates help sessions and support services.
- Available for communication during the school day.
- Communicates and co-educates with parents.
- Teachers (or parents) advocate for students.

Student Responsibilities:

- Attends class.
- Learning/growth in skills in different classes.
- Pass grade-level requirements (unless grading is designated otherwise by IEP).

IEPs: Students with an IEP can expect teachers to also:

- Know accommodations listed in the IEP and follow them daily.
- Report regularly on progress.
- Communicate with parents; parents participate in IEP goals and accommodations.
- Adapt materials or teaching to the student's learning style.
- Allow extra testing time, separate testing, a support staff, or other accommodations in class (if listed in the IEP).

College/University Experience for Students with Disabilities: Education is voluntary and at the expense of the individual

Teacher responsibilities:

- Trained as an expert in subject, not necessarily as a teacher.
- Provide a syllabus of expectations and general course outline at the start of the class.
- May hold office hours for discussion or may require pre-arranged meetings.
- May lecture/talk for the duration of class.
- May discuss assignments in person or assign online.
- Waits for students to ask for help.
- May or may not check student's work.
- May or may not provide feedback on work, tests, projects.
- Not responsible for reminding students of due dates.
- Does not communicate with parents.

Other responsibilities:

- Complete work as assigned, on time.
- Seek additional help (such as tutoring), if needed for understanding.
- Re-read materials or read additional materials, if needed for understanding.
- Responsible for tracking deadlines and due dates.
- Utilize books, online resources, and communications aligned with the teacher's preferences.
- Manage time outside of class to complete assignments.
- Independently take notes.
- Initiate attending office hours or make an appointment with teacher/ professor if needed.
- Provide information to / consults with parents independently (without teachers and counselors)
- Advocates for self.

Student responsibilities: IEPs do not apply in higher education. Students who need accommodations usually must complete a version of the following steps (may vary by school):

- Contact the school's disability services, meet with a counselor, and provide proof of disability or proof of need for accommodations.
- Write out or independently express which specific accommodations are important to the student's success in a particular class. (Accommodations may vary for students depending on class topic).
- Each semester, contact the teacher/professor for each class to request specific accommodations. Contact can be made by email, but some teachers/professors may ask to meet in person.
- If accommodations are granted, the student is often responsible for reminding or following through. For example, students who request extra testing time might be required to make an appointment at the student services center and might be required to take the test on the same day as the rest of the class.
- If accommodations are not granted, the student should consult with the student disabilities counselors to identify if the student can be successful or if there is a better class to substitute in his/ her schedule.