



College Bound with an IEP or 504

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR SUCCESS

Not All 4-Year Colleges Are The Same!

- ▶ Colleges for Students with Learning Needs:
 - ▶ Landmark College, Dean College and Curry College
- ▶ Colleges with Special Programs:
 - ▶ Adelphi, Marist, University of Arizona, Hofstra
 - ▶ Most often are associated with additional cost

2 Year Colleges

- ▶ Often have a great deal of academic support
- ▶ Can provide a smooth transition from high school to college
- ▶ Some have residential campuses and/or articulation agreements with 4 year schools

Important Differences Between High School and College

High School	College
I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973	A.D.A. (American with Disabilities Act)
Education is a <u>right</u> under IDEA and must be provided in an appropriate environment to all individuals	Education is <u>not a right</u> . Students must meet admission criteria defined under ADA as “otherwise qualified”
Free, appropriate public education is mandatory	Students decide to attend and will most likely pay tuition.
Students may receive special education services to address their needs which may include specialized instruction, modifications, and accommodations. Goals are monitored and communicated to the parent and student.	Students MUST self-advocate. Formal services are not typically available. Reasonable accommodations and modifications may be made to provide equal access and participation. Students are required to monitor their own progress and they are the ones to communicate that to parents.
I.D.E.A. is about SUCCESS	A.D.A. is about ACCESS

Accommodations vs. Academic Support

- ▶ By law, colleges and universities **are required** to provide accommodations for **qualified** students
 - ▶ i.e. extended time for testing, large print testing material, etc.
 - ▶ There is no charge for accommodations.
- ▶ Unlike high school, supports are **not required**, and when they are available they may be fee-based services.
 - ▶ It is up to you to find out what is available at any school you are interested in, and to be certain that you qualify for, and if necessary, can afford what is available.

Services vs. Programs On The College Level

▶ SERVICES

- ▶ Office of Disability Services or Student Services.
- ▶ Size of the office is different everywhere you go

▶ PROGRAMS

- ▶ There are over 4,000 colleges and universities; roughly 100 colleges have programs.
- ▶ Examples on Long Island include:
 - ▶ LIU Post, Adelphi and Hofstra.

How Do I Qualify For Accommodations In College?

- ▶ You generally need recent (usually within three years) cognitive, psychological and or medical testing to support your request for accommodations
- ▶ Testing results must be from the adult version of the evaluation
- ▶ Documentation must clearly support the accommodation(s) that you are requesting

How Do I Know That I Have The Right Documentation?

- ▶ **ASK THE COLLEGE!!!**
- ▶ Check with the schools you are considering, that your documents and or assessments meet their specific requirements
- ▶ Your high school IEP or 504 plan alone (in most cases) will not be sufficient to ensure your eligibility for accommodations

How Does My Disability Affect My College Applications?

- ▶ **It doesn't.** Typically a student must meet all admission requirements expected of all applicants.
- ▶ Some schools have students apply concurrently to programs within the school that is in place for students with disabilities.

Should I Keep My Disability A Secret When Applying?

- ▶ Feel comfortable to discuss any concerns related to your disability.
- ▶ This can be discussed in person or addressed in an essay or supplement on your college application.
- ▶ Do not waste applications on schools that will not meet your needs.

Common Myths About Colleges and Accommodations

- ▶ Colleges have quotas and must admit a certain number of students with LD or other special needs.
- ▶ Colleges with programs for students with LD or other special needs have special classes.
- ▶ High school students exempt from taking a foreign language will not be required to take a foreign language in college.

Common Myths About Colleges and Accommodations

- ▶ A college will follow the IEP
- ▶ Documentation is the IEP
- ▶ High schools mail the IEP so the colleges will then provide accommodations and services
- ▶ Colleges have a responsibility to students with special needs for them to be successful