

# College Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

**Transitioning from High School to  
College**

# Words to know

Access/Accommodations - **Conditions, policies, and processes that enable an individual to effectively participate in a learning environment**

Barrier – **something that the college creates or requires that exacerbates challenges for an individual in the learning process**

Self-disclose; disclosure – **telling someone**

Self-advocacy – **ability to speak up for yourself, identify your needs, communicate them clearly, and help others understand how they can support you**

What are the  
differences between  
high school and  
college?

# IDEA = K-12

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities.

- Requires the school to identify and assess
- Must modify curriculum if necessary (Success)
- Teachers are told how to teach and assess
- Progress is monitored by teachers and team
- Behavior must be accommodated or managed by the school

# ADA = college

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a law that requires colleges and universities to provide equal access to education for students with disabilities.

- Requires student to self disclose
- Cannot modify curriculum (Access)
- Instructors have academic freedom
- Progress is monitored by the student
- Behavioral expectations are the same for students with disabilities

# Responsibilities in High School

## **The School**

- Identifies need
- Tests student
- Modifies assignments
- Pays for testing
- Checks in and adjusts
- Guarantees Success

## **Parents/guardians**

- Advocate on behalf of student
- Make decisions for student

**Student**

# Responsibilities in College

## School

- Maintain standards
- Provide reasonable accommodations
- Guarantee access

Parent  
or  
guardian

## Student

- Identify self
- Provide documentation
- Advocate for self
- Manage time
- Make Decisions
- Seek resources
- Use or decline accommodations
- Achieve school's standards

How do college  
students get  
accommodations?

...



# The Interactive Process

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Self disclose (tell someone)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Provide documentation
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Meet with an accessibility advisor. This meeting is to discuss how your disability impacts your learning and reasonable accommodations
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Develop a plan of accommodations you will send to instructors

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: Who will I talk to and what do I say?**

A: You will be assigned to work with an accessibility advisor who can help you with this process. This person will also be your academic advisor and support you in meeting your academic goals at CCV. You can simply say, *"I have a disability that affects the way I learn. How do I get accommodations at CCV?"*

## **Q: How long will it take to get accommodations?**

A: Once you have given an accessibility advisor your documentation and scheduled a time to talk with them, it is possible that you will have your accommodation plan by the end of that day. Other times, depending on the accommodation request and the documentation provided, it may take longer.

## **Q: Will having accommodations make college easier?**

Our goal is to make college fully accessible so that you have the same opportunities as your peers. Remember this may not necessarily make college "easier". Each student, regardless of ability, is expected to meet the objectives of the course.



# FAQs continued

**Q: Can I bring someone to our meetings?**

A: Absolutely.

**Q: What if I do not know what accommodations I may need?**

A: This is okay and is common, especially for first time college students. We will look at your documentation and talk with you about what has worked best for you in the past. Accommodations can also be updated and changed as needed when appropriate.

**Q: What is a reasonable accommodation?**

A: An accommodation is considered reasonable if it does not change the class requirements, does not pertain to regular disability management, or have high impactful costs. What is “reasonable” may differ a bit class by class, so not all accommodations will apply to every course.

# Skills to practice

- ☒ Time Management Skills
- ☒ Self-Advocacy Skills
- ☒ Being able to study independently
- ☒ Knowing who to ask for help and using available resources