



How Students Can Get Accommodations in College

A practical guide to accessing college supports

What Are College Accommodations?

Supports that help students with disabilities access learning and succeed in college.

Know Your Rights

- Protected under Section 504 and the ADA
- Colleges must provide equal access
- Students must request accommodations (not automatic like in high school)

Step 1: Connect with Disability Services

- Contact the college's Disability/Accessibility Office
- Do this before or early in the semester

Step 2: Provide Documentation

- May include IEP, 504 Plan, or medical/psychological records
- Requirements vary by college

Step 3: Meet with the Disability Office

- Discuss your strengths, challenges, and needs
- Create an accommodation plan

Step 4: Share Letters with Professors

- You will receive accommodation letters
- You are responsible for giving them to instructors

Step 5: Use Your Accommodations

- Communicate with professors
- Ask questions and follow up when needed

Examples of Accommodations

- Extended time on tests
- Note-taking support or recorded lectures
- Quiet testing environment
- Flexible attendance (when appropriate)
- Assistive technology

Tips for Success

- Start early each semester
- Stay organized and keep copies of paperwork
- Practice self-advocacy
- Ask for help when needed

Key Difference from High School

- You must ask for services
- Parents and teachers do not manage supports
- You are responsible for communication

Helpful Resources

College Disability Services Office

Job Accommodation Network (JAN): askjan.org

ADA Information Line: 1-800-514-0301

Bottom Line: In college, you are in charge. Asking for accommodations helps you succeed and reach your goals.