

Students with Disabilities Transition from High School to College: The Differences in Law, Responsibilities and Expectations

IDEA	ADA/Section 504
Covers students in K-12	Covers students in postsecondary institutions
Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment guaranteed to student	Equal access guaranteed to student who must be “otherwise qualified” to enter college without consideration of disability
School must identify student with disability	Student must self-identify to disability service provider
School responsible for testing and evaluating student with disability	Student must provide documentation as defined by the college. Post-secondary institutions do not evaluate or diagnose student
School develops IEP (Individualized Education Plan) for student	No IEP for student, and no formal special education services available
IEP team determines necessary supports as well as modifications to curriculum student will need	Student responsible to meet with disability service providers to discuss needs and request accommodations. No modification to curriculum
Classroom teachers receive a copy of IEP and have a thorough understanding of student’s disability	Professor provided with official notice from Disability Service provider regarding student’s need for accommodation. No diagnostic data included unless provided by student
Teachers and Parents advocate for academic needs of student	Student advocates for own academic needs