

Differences between high school and college disability services

High schools are required to:

- Identify students with disabilities
- Provide assessment of learning disabilities
- Classify disabilities according to specified diagnostic categories
- Involve parents or guardians in placement decisions
- Provide certain nonacademic services
- Place students in programs where they can benefit (in any way) by placement committee with parent participation and approval
- Structure a large part of the student's weekly schedule
- Modify educational programs
- Prepare Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs)
- Provide a free and appropriate education
- Provide appropriate services by school nurse or health service

Colleges are required to:

- Protect a student's right to privacy and confidentiality
- Provide access to programs and services
- Inform students of office location and procedures for requesting accommodations
- Accept and evaluate verifying documentation
- Determine (via documentation) that an impairment causes a substantial limitation on a major life activity
- Determine for students who are otherwise qualified for participation in the program or service whether a reasonable accommodation is possible
- Make reasonable accommodations for students who meet the above criteria
- Provide reasonable access to program and service choices equal to those available to general public
- Suggest reasonable adjustments in teaching methods that do not alter the essential content of a course or program
- Assure that off-campus and contracted program facilities also comply with Section 504 (Subpart E) and ADA
- Inform students of their rights and responsibilities

However, colleges are not required to:

- Reduce or waive any of the essential requirements of a course or program
- Conduct testing and assessment of learning, psychological, or medical disabilities
- Provide personal attendants
- Provide personal or private tutors (but tutoring services normally available to persons without disabilities must be accessible to persons with disabilities who are otherwise qualified for those services)
- Prepare "Individual Education Plans" (IEPs)