

7 Steps for Transitioning Your Accommodations Plan from High School to College

by Stacy Holguin

Going to college with a disability can add an extra challenge in transitioning to your new school. Before launching into the seven steps that will help, it is important to understand some major differences between K-12 and college accommodations. First, in the K-12 system the school is responsible for making sure the student has a plan and resources to be successful and parents participate in that plan. In college, the student must advocate for their needs and parents must have permission from the student to participate in planning. An additional key difference relates to the curriculum. In K-12, curriculum can be modified to address student needs. In the college setting, curriculum is not modified, but accommodations can be put in place to support the student in meeting the curriculum. With this in mind, consider these 7 transition steps.

1. Keep a copy of your high school IEP/504 plan with you at college. Your campus may require additional documentation or testing but having your high school plan available for reference is a great place to start.
2. Research accommodations available at your top choice colleges before you apply to assure what you need is available.
3. Contact the Disability or Education Access Center (EAC) to discuss accommodations before or as soon as you send in your statement of intent to register, determine what documentation is needed, and start planning.
4. Review community resources to plan for counseling, medical doctors, insurance coverage, or medication access you may need outside of campus resources.
5. Work with your EAC to develop your class schedule. They have insider information to help you pick the courses and faculty that best suit you.
6. To help the faculty members, notify them before or as soon as your classes begin in an introductory email about your accommodations. It sometimes takes a couple of weeks for formal paperwork to get to them.
7. If you have any concerns, seek support! Don't wait for the issue to become a serious problem.

Remember, you are your own best advocate, but there are many people and resources available to support you. We at Presidio Group Education Planning are here to support you as you develop your college plans.