

Differences between High School & College

There are many differences between high school and college. We suggest you review the chart below and familiarize yourself with the services available to you.

High School	College
Law is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of IDEA.	Laws are Americans with Disabilities Act of ADA and Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.
IDEA is about success.	ADA is about access.
Core modifications of classes and materials are required.	Modifications of the essential components of a course are not required.
Under IDEA, children with disabilities are absolutely <i>entitled</i> to a “Free and Appropriate Public Education.”	Accommodations are provided to ensure <i>equal access</i> . Students have <i>civil rights</i> and they must advocate for themselves to enjoy those rights. In addition, students have the civil right to <i>refuse</i> accommodations they do not want; if they do not request an accommodation, it is assumed they do not want it.
School districts must identify disabilities and develop Individual Education Plans (IEPs).	Student must self-identify and ask for services. No IEP exists and it is not considered legal documentation.
School districts provide free evaluations.	Higher education does not have to assess the student, but can expect that the student will provide proof of their disability within accepted guidelines. Student must obtain evaluations at their own expense.
The student is helped by parents and teachers.	Students are required to obtain services from Learning Accessibility Services. Identifying oneself as having a disability to an individual professor, school, or department other than LAS, is not considered an official notification to the university. According to FERPA, LAS cannot communicate with parents unless the student consents.
The school is responsible for arranging all accommodations.	Student must self-advocate and arrange their accommodations.
Students often receive “Un-timed tests” if they have a disability.	“Un-timed tests” are not reasonable, but time extensions are typically time-and-a-half but no more than double time.
Teachers may be expected to	Professors need know only that which applies to the

learn all they can about the disability of a student in one of their classes.	accommodations the student requests.
Personal care services are required.	The student is responsible for personal services (e.g., personal care, medical and related requirements), just as if they would if they were living independently and not attending school.
Parent has access to student records.	The parent(s) has no access to student records without the student's written consent.
Parent advocates for student.	Student advocates for self.
Classes meet daily.	Classes meet 1, 2, 3, or 4 times a week.
Classes generally meet in the same building.	Classes are held in many different places on campus.
Average length of class is 35 to 45 minutes.	Classes vary in length from 50 minutes to 3 hours.
Guidance counselors and other staff scheduled support services for students.	Many campus resources exist, but students must locate, schedule and utilize them on their own.
Teachers often remind you of assignments and due dates.	Professors expect you to read the course syllabus. They may not remind you of upcoming events.
High school is free.	<p>Student must pay for college through financial aid and other arrangements.</p> <p>There is no charge for the provision of LAS services and reasonable accommodations. However, students with disabilities are subject to all other institutional fees at the same cost and with the same program options as are provided to students without disabilities.</p>

For more information, visit the [U.S. Department of Education](https://www.ed.gov/).