



Transition to Postsecondary Education

Student with Disability Guide

Postsecondary Education = Any schooling that takes place after high school graduation.

No IEPs In Postsecondary Education ... What Does That Mean To You?

Laws change—laws that may have applied to you as a student with a disability in K-12 education will no longer apply to you in postsecondary school.

High School		Postsecondary Institution
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	↔	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act/ Americans with Disabilities Act - Antidiscrimination laws
Annual Individualized Education Program and review	↔	There are no IEPs in postsecondary education
Special education classes available	↔	No special education classes available
Modifications and accommodations are permitted for student to find academic success.	↔	Accommodations that do not alter the fundamental nature of the course or impose undue burden on the institution are permitted. No modifications are allowed.

*Chart compares IDEA services at high school to Section 504/ADA services at the postsecondary level

What is the difference between accommodations and modifications?

Accommodations — They do not alter what you are expected to learn. An accommodation makes learning accessible to you and allows you to demonstrate what you know. Examples: Extended time on tests, tests in separate location, preferential seating, adaptive furniture, large print texts.

Modifications — They alter what you are expected to learn. Examples: Limited choices on tests, simplifying words on assignments and tests.

What Are Your Postsecondary Options?

Technology Center — Technology centers prepare you for a specific profession. They combine the academic curriculum with real-life hands-on applications. Technology centers are usually smaller than colleges and cheaper.

Two-Year Community/Junior College — They offer a variety of two-year degree programs. Community/junior colleges are usually smaller and cheaper than four-year colleges/universities.

Four-Year Colleges/Universities — They offer a multitude of degree programs. Class sizes are usually large.

It's Your Choice

Making your disability known in postsecondary education is your choice. However, if you would like your postsecondary school to provide accommodations, be sure to reach out to the school's Office of Disabilities or Student Services.

Success Tips

- Learn about your disability and how you can explain it to others.
- Know what accommodations you need to be successful and know how to ask for them.
- Practice self-advocacy skills, including asking for help.
- Tour technology centers and college campuses and evaluate the disabilities services and staff.
- Take the ACT or SAT and ask for accommodations (if needed).
- Seek opportunities at school, home, and the community to learn more about their strengths, preferences, interests, and needs.
- Research various careers and pathways to see how they align with your interests and skillset.
- Share interests, needs, and desired career pathways during meetings.
- Engage in work-based learning opportunities that build career-related skills.
- Take action towards established goals and plans.
- Develop good study skills and challenge yourself in your classes.
- Work with your high school counselor to make sure you have the credits/courses you need to graduate and continue your education at the postsecondary level.



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