

# ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

Disabilities accommodations in college are those supports and services provided at no cost to eligible students with disabilities to have equal access and opportunity to benefit from classes, programs, and activities.

## KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE FOR YOU – THE STUDENT!

Getting accommodations in college is a very different process than in high school. The laws that govern services for disabled students change when you move from high school (IDEA) to college (ADA and Rehabilitation Act). As a result, procedures for qualifying for and procuring services are different.

	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
<b>INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL PLANS (IEP)</b>	Students have access to services through an IEP.	IEPs are not used. Classes include students with and without disabilities. The curriculum is not modified. The services you receive will depend on your individual needs and will be based on your disability documentation.
<b>RECEIVING ACCOMMODATIONS</b>	Students are identified and provided services by the school.	You must initiate the process and register with the Disabilities Support Services on campus.
<b>ADVOCATES</b>	Teachers, parents, and students advocate for services.	You will have to seek help when you need assistance and advocate for yourself. Faculty will expect to talk to you, not your parents, when learning about the accommodations you need in their class and when an issue arises.
<b>PARENT’S ROLE</b>	Parents can see student records and must give permission for any decisions for the student.	Students are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Parents no not communicate with your family, with DSS personnel, or have access to your grades and student information.

## DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) AT RIVERSIDE

*Don't let your disability prevent you from reaching your goals.  
Disability Support Services can help you succeed in college!*

<b>1. REGISTERING FOR ACCOMMODATIONS</b>	To pursue accommodations or services at the college level, you must register as a student with a disability. This should take place soon after you have accepted admission or prior to scheduling entrance testing. Contact the DSS office to find out our procedures for requesting accommodations. DSS personnel will discuss your individual needs and determine if you are eligible for services. Again, parents play no role in this process.
<b>2. ACCOMMODATIONS MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL</b>	Do not expect to have the same accommodations in college as you did in high school. In high school, you were provided accommodations to ensure your participation in the general curriculum. In college, you must initiate the process to receive accommodations. Also, accommodations provided by one college may be different from those approved by another college. Accommodations are based on your individual needs <i>and</i> the curriculum requirements for the program you are entering.
<b>3. COMMON ACCOMMODATIONS THAT WE PROVIDE</b>	Some of the more common accommodations offered at our college may include: permission to record lectures, preferential classroom seating, extended time on tests, testing in a distraction-reduced environment, and copies of lecture notes. Accommodation that we provide for you will be based on your individual needs and the documentation that you provide.
<b>4. DISABILITY DOCUMENTATION</b>	You will be required to provide documentation of your disability to receive accommodations. When meeting with DSS personnel, provide any documentation that you already have (IEP, letter of accommodation from another school, psychoeducational evaluation, etc.). DSS personnel will assist you with any additional documentation that may be needed. Once accommodations are approved, DSS will provide a letter listing your approved accommodations that you will share with your faculty.
<b>5. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS</b>	Under the ADA, you are the person responsible for communicating your accommodation needs to the faculty. You will need to meet with each of your instructors and share our accommodation letter with them, preferably before the start of each semester or course. If you have a service animal you should contact the Disabilities Officer for important information on your responsibilities for and restrictions of service animals on campus and in clinical areas.
<b>6. PRIVACY</b>	ADA law protects your privacy throughout this process. DSS personnel do not share your personal information or disability status without your signed consent.

**HAVE QUESTIONS? Call DSS at 757-240-2203 and ask for the DISABILITIES OFFICER.**