



## ACCOMMODATIONS OFFERED BY COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

**If the student had an IEP in high school, what accommodations will be provided to them at a community college/TCAT? What are the differences between high school and postsecondary that the student should plan for?**

- The reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) apply to high school students, while the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 apply to students in higher education. Neither IDEA nor IEP's (mandated by IDEA) are applicable as students transition to college. Even Section 504 has many different provisions for colleges than are in place for K-12 schools. K-12 schools are legally required to guarantee all students successfully obtain a Free Appropriate Public Education (success), while higher education schools are only legally required to provide students with the opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities (access).
- If a student has a learning disability or intellectual impairment, the community college/TCAT will only accept the student's most recent, complete psycho-educational test report. If a student has any other type of disability (such as ADHD, emotional disability, health impairment, etc.) a community college/TCAT will accept either a most recent, complete psycho-educational test report or a diagnostic narrative from the student's specialist. A diagnostic narrative is a detailed letter that describes the student's disability and the symptoms that may require accommodation. An IEP or other school plan (504) may also be submitted to substantiate the use of specific accommodations, but generally will not suffice as a student's primary documentation of disability.

**Will students' approved accommodations for college-level classes always be different than their IEP accommodations?**

- Not necessarily. In fact, the majority of students' college level accommodations are the same ones included in their IEP's or 504 Plans. The only exceptions are accommodations that would fundamentally alter the essential components of a course or field of study, such as modified tests or homework assignments, or those accommodations that are not "logically" related to the specific functional limitations of a student's disability. These types of accommodations are generally not accepted at community colleges or TCATs.