

# Family Tip Sheets:

## What Should I Know About Getting Accommodations in College?

### The Basics

When your child is in high school, they can get special education services if they qualify. To get services in college, your child needs to disclose their disability. This means they have to tell the disability services office that they have a disability. This is called disability disclosure. Colleges can give accommodations. Accommodations are changes to how material is accessed. Accommodations can include getting extra time on a test, testing in a separate room, or getting materials in large print. If your child does not disclose their disability, they will not get accommodations.

Your child should reach out to the disability services office at their school. Staff there can answer any questions your child may have.

### What Questions Should I Ask?

- How do I contact the disability services office?
- What are examples of accommodations the college provides?
- Are there other programs or services offered through your office?
- What information does my child need to provide to get services?

Disclosure is a personal choice. Your child can choose to disclose their disability. They can also choose not to disclose their disability. If your child discloses, below are some questions to think about:

#### When to disclose?

Your child can disclose at any time. It is best to meet with the disability services office at their college before they start classes. Then they will be able to have their accommodations ready when they want them. They do not have to use the accommodations all the time.

### What information does my child need to disclose?

This can vary. Your child should contact the college to ask what documents they need. Below are documents asked for based on the disability:

- Visual Impairment: Current vision report
- Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing: Current hearing test
- Mobility Impairments, Medical Disability, ADHD: Current medical records
- Autism: Diagnosis from a qualified professional
- Learning Disability: Psychological evaluation

### Who will know about my child's disability?

Only the disability services office. Your child can disclose their disability to others if they choose to.

## **Transition Tennessee has some helpful tip sheets:**

[Differences Between High School and Postsecondary](#)

[Disability Disclosure FAQs](#)

[Questions Students and Families Can Ask when Applying to College](#)

## **Myths**

### **Myth #1: Colleges will automatically provide my child with accommodations.**

Colleges and universities follow the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA requires that the person (your child) ask for disability support. If they do not sign up with the disability services office, they will not get accommodations.

### **Myth #2: My child will receive modified work in college.**

Modifications are changes to the work you do. Modifications are not given in college. Your child will have to do the same work as their peers.

### **Myth #3: If my child fails a test and did not use accommodations they can retake the test.**

Accommodations are not retroactive in college. To get accommodations, you must request them at the beginning of the school semester.

### **Myth #4: My child must use their accommodations at all times once they are approved.**

Your child can use their accommodations whenever they choose. However, they are not required to use them.

For example, your child gets extra time on tests. They take a test and finish early. They will not have to stay for the extra time.