

Differences in High School and College Services and Accommodations

<i>High School</i>	<i>College</i>
Children with disabilities are covered under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and are absolutely entitled to a "Free and Appropriate Public Education."	Students with disabilities are covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act and have equal access to education. No one is entitled to anything; rather, college students have civil rights and they must advocate for themselves in order to enjoy those rights.
Plans, either the IEP or a 504 Plan, drove all services and accommodations, and involved the teachers, counselors and required a parent's signature.	There is no education plan, and instructors are not contacted, except by the student. In fact, parents do not even receive a student's grades.
Students are qualified for public education simply by being of the appropriate age, and because they have a disability.	"Otherwise qualified," in college, means that the student must meet all entrance and academic requirements, whether or not they receive accommodations. Students with disabilities must present current documentation of their disability.
Everybody knew about a student's placement, and practically everybody signed the plan. Each teacher would know about a student even before he or she entered the classroom, and have a good idea what the student's needs were.	Disability Support Services never contacts a professor without express permission from the student. Thus, the student must initiate all actions regarding accommodation with each professor, for each course, every semester. In addition, students have the civil right to refuse accommodations they don't need or want; and if they do not request an accommodation it is assumed they do not want it.
Students often received "Untimed tests" if they have a disability.	"Untimed tests" are not reasonable, but time extensions may be reasonable, typically time-and-a-half but no more than double time.
High school schedules are fixed, 6 hours a day. There is typically not a lot of homework.	College schedules are flexible and are planned by the student. There are a lot of reading and writing assignments.