

What Accommodations Can I Receive While in College? (cont.)

Under Section 504, you will receive reasonable accommodations to remove barriers and facilitate full participation. The student is responsible for providing documentation and requesting accommodations related to his/her disability. As part of the requirements of Section 504, you must be determined to be eligible for services and the accommodation cannot result in a change in content or standards expected for all students. An accommodation is defined as a support or service that is provided to help a student fully access the college curriculum, course or classroom. It does not change the content of what is being taught.

In order to apply for accommodations under Section 504, contact your college's disability services office. Application requirements vary by school but typically include: (1) completion of a disability form and (2) documentation from a doctor or psychologist confirming your disability and describing necessary accommodations. It can be helpful to submit a copy of your previous IEP along with the required documentation.

Services can include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Assistive technology
- ❖ Mobility assistance
- ❖ Disability parking
- ❖ Note-taking services
- ❖ Assignment extensions
- ❖ Extra time for exam-taking
- ❖ Priority registration
- ❖ Sign language interpretation
- ❖ Special dietary needs

What Can I Do to Get Involved on Campus?

Colleges offer many opportunities to get involved and meet fellow students. If you want an easy way to meet others, consider (1) joining clubs, (2) attending school events like exhibitions and sporting events, (3) participating in intramural sports, and (4) joining volunteer projects. Contact your college's events and student life office for more information.



How Do I Apply for Financial Aid?

You can apply for federal student aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more information and to apply, visit www.fafsa.gov.

You can also receive need and merit-based scholarships from your college. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.



Online Resources for Researching Postsecondary Educational Institutions:

College Navigator:

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

College Results:

www.collegeresults.org

The College Board

www.collegeboard.org

TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

EDUCATION AND INDEPENDENCE

How a Student Enrolled in Special Education Can Prepare for College or Vocational School



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What Are My Options for Postsecondary Education?

There are three major options for postsecondary education: community college, four-year college, and vocational school.

Community colleges are two-year public institutions that offer certificates, diplomas and associate's degrees. Some associate's degrees, such as the associate's degree in nursing, allow graduates to immediately enter the workforce in certain fields. Other associate's degrees prepare students for transfer to a four-year college. In California, students who complete the associate's in arts degree for transfer (A.A.-T.) or the associate's in science degree for transfer (A.S.-T.) will be granted priority admission to a California State University (CSU) in a similar bachelor's degree (B.A.) program.

Four-year colleges and universities are institutions that grant four-year degrees in particular areas of study. The most common four-year degrees are the bachelor's of arts (B.A.) and the bachelor's of science (B.S.). Students who receive a bachelor's degree will be prepared to enter the workforce in a variety of fields.

Private vocational schools, also known as trade schools, offer necessary training to help students find work in specific industries, but can be costly. Typically, a student can complete training at a vocational school within two years and upon graduation, students will be prepared to enter the workforce in particular fields, such as mechanics, culinary arts and web design. Community colleges also provide vocational training, and are generally more cost effective.



How Can I Prepare for Postsecondary Education?

Your Individual Transition Plan (ITP) will include postsecondary education goals written into the ITP. Your ITP will help you develop the necessary skills to enter postsecondary education and will assist you with figuring out your options for postsecondary education. If you are 14 or older and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) but not an ITP, contact your IEP team to request that they prepare an ITP for you. Students must have an ITP by 16.

If you are on a Section 504 Plan and do not have an ITP or IEP, your school can still help you prepare for postsecondary education. Contact your school's college center to ask for assistance with preparing for postsecondary education.



How and When Do I Apply for Postsecondary Education/Training?

You should apply for post-secondary education during your senior year of high school. It is imperative that you are on track for completing your prescribed course of study and will be receiving your high school diploma.

If choosing to apply to a community college, you can apply online at www.home.cccapply.org. Application deadlines vary based on the college and term that you plan to start. Specific application requirements and deadlines can be found on each college's web site.

The three local community colleges in Lanterman's area are:

- ❖ Los Angeles City College (www.lacitycollege.edu)
- ❖ Glendale City College (www.glendale.edu)
- ❖ Pasadena City College (www.pasadena.edu)

Community colleges typically require placement tests. Meet with your college's disability services office to confirm.

California State Universities (CSU) have a single application that applies to all of the CSUs. CSUs do not require that students write an essay for admission. Application deadlines vary by year but typically fall in November if you are applying for fall admission. It is best to start the application process as soon as the application becomes available. You can apply online at www2.calstate.edu/apply.

University of California (UC) schools have a single application that applies to all of the UCs. For admission, UCs require a minimum high school GPA of 3.0 for students who attended school in California. Application deadlines vary by year but typically fall in November. It is best to start the application process as soon as the application becomes available. You can apply online at: <http://admissions.universityofcalifornia.edu>.

Application processes and deadlines vary for vocational and trade programs. It may be beneficial to check out vocational training at local community colleges before seeking out trade schools because trade school can be costly. If you would like to explore vocational and trade schools based on your area of interest, visit www.trade-schools.net.



What Accommodations Can I Receive While in College?

Because the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) does not cover postsecondary education, you will not receive an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in college. Instead, you can receive reasonable accommodations under Section 504 and ask about the possibility of a Student Education Contract (SEC).

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