

# Getting ready for college on a 504 – a guide for parents and students

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This brochure is intended for the high school student who already has Section 504 accommodations and is interested in going to college.

Separate brochures are available for the following topics:

- Now that you have a 504 – A guide for parents
- Now that you are in high school – a guide for students on 504s

This brochure has been created for you, the student.

You have now been at your High School for a while and it's time to prepare for taking the PSAT in 10<sup>th</sup> grade! For questions about accommodations on the PSAT/ACT/SAT tests please review the summary and charts created by the LWPTSA Council Special Needs Group. The document is titled "Getting ready for college on an IEP or 504 - When and how to ask for ACT and PSAT/SAT/AP accommodations". It is available at [www.lwptsa.net/special-needs](http://www.lwptsa.net/special-needs)

This brochure answers some basic questions about what to look for in a college; and what to expect once you get to college.

What to look for in a college to find a good match for my learning style: All of the advice given to any high school student applies to you too! Here are some additional things to know about.

1. Should I tell the college about my disability in my application?

*Yes! You want to find out before you go if the college cannot accommodate your needs.*

2. How do I disclose my disability to the college?

*Colleges cannot legally ask you about your disability. But applications usually have something called an "additional information" prompt. This is where you can tell your story about your disability and how it affects you, what accommodations you have and how they work for you and how you have responded to your challenge.*

3. Who do I talk to at the college about accommodations?

*You will have to start with The Disability Office (name may vary). In college the burden is on the student to explain what accommodations are needed and why. Once the Disability Office agrees to your accommodations, then they will let you know how to inform your professors (ie, presenting a document in person or by email).*

4. When is the best time to talk to the college?

*E-mail and/or speak with the disability coordinator via Skype to prepare ahead of time for your meeting with them when you visit the campus.*

5. Are some colleges better than others at handling accommodations?

*Most colleges today are quite good at handling accommodations, but they can vary greatly in the level of accommodation support offered. Additionally, some professors may need to learn more about why you need your accommodations in order to understand how to grant them.*

*You need to decide what your own learning style is (do you like sitting in a lecture hall? Are you more of a hands-on type learners?) Where do you want to live for the next 4+ years? What can you afford? Do you want to live in a big or small city? As you can see, all the questions any other high school student must answer also apply to you.*

6. Do I have to have a reevaluation of my disability before I can get accommodations in college?

*No, as colleges are not bound by IDEA they will have different requirements for what they require in considering provision of accommodations. Typically a copy of your 504 plan from high school, and or copy of your most recent provider's report will suffice. But again each institution is different and you should inquire as to what colleges that you are interested in require.*

What to expect once I get to college:

7. How do my professors know I need accommodations?

*The only way your professors will know you need accommodations is if you tell them. You need to describe your accommodation and explain why you needed. You do not have to disclose what your disability is.*

8. Do my professors have to grant me my accommodations?

*No, one strategy to consider (carefully though!) is to sign up for more classes than you intend to take and drop the ones where the professor is not a good match. Decide within the first week or you fall behind. And drop the class within the timeline your school gives.*