

Differences Between High School and College

Identifying and Disclosing a Disability

In High School

Education is a right and must be provided in appropriate environments to all individuals.

School districts are responsible to identify students' disabilities.

School districts must provide free testing, evaluation, and transportation to programs.

School districts develop Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

School districts are responsible for providing all IEP supports and services.

Fundamental alterations of programs and curricula are required. Personal services for medical/physical disabilities are required.

Guiding Principle: The responsibility of identifying a student's disability and implementing accommodations and curriculum modifications falls on the high school.

In College

Education is not a right. Students must meet certain admissions criteria and be defined under the ADA as qualified to meet the requirements of an academic program.

Students must self-identify to Disability Services.

Students must provide transportation as well as current and appropriate documentation. If the documentation is insufficient, students may obtain evaluations at their own cost

No IEPs are developed in college, as there is no special education. IEPs from high school do not always apply in college and need not be submitted for services.

Students are responsible for activating and using approved services every term.

No fundamental alterations of program or curricula are required. No personal services are required.

Guiding Principle: The responsibility for identifying, documenting and disclosing a disability falls on the student. The implementation of accommodations is led by the student and facilitated through a team effort involving the student, Disability Services staff, and the student's faculty members

General Differences

In High School

High school is mandatory and usually free.
Students' time and schedule is structured in most part by others.

Students need parent permission to participate in extracurricular activities.

Students can count on parents and teachers to remind them of your responsibilities and to give regular guidance in setting priorities.

Each day high school students typically proceed from one class directly to another, spending 6 hours each day--30 hours a week--in class.

Most of a student's classes are arranged for them by guidance.

Students are not responsible for knowing what is required to graduate or tracking their own progress.

Parents have access to school records, student progress, and other information.

Guiding principle: Students are usually told what to do and corrected if their behavior is not in line with set expectations.

In College

College is voluntary and can be expensive.
Students manage their own time and register for their own classes.

Students must decide whether to participate in co-curricular activities and which fit best with their academic, personal, and other goals.

Students must balance their own responsibilities and set priorities. Faculty, advisors, and other staff are available from which to request support and guidance.

Students in college often have hours between classes; class times vary day-to-day and run throughout the day and evening hours. Students might only spend as little as 12-16 hours per week in class with a majority of the work being done outside of formal instruction.

Students arrange their own schedules in consultation with faculty and academic advisors. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.

Students are expected to select their own majors and/or minors and are expected to learn the graduation requirements for their programs of study.

Students are protected under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). College staff may not share information without the student's consent.

Guiding principle: Students are expected to take responsibility for their own path and academic success, as well as the consequences and rewards of their actions.

Teachers/Professors

In High School

Teachers check your completed homework.

Teachers remind you of your incomplete work.

Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.

Teachers are often available for conversation before, during, or after class.

Teachers have been trained in teaching methods to assist in imparting knowledge to students.

Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.

Teachers present material to help you understand the material in the textbook.

Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.

Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.

In College

Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.

Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.

Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.

Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.

Professors have been trained as experts in their particular areas of research.

Professors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed.

Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. Or they may expect you to relate the classes to the textbook readings.

Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.

Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.

Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.

Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.

Guiding principle: Teachers bear much of the responsibility for your learning.

Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.

Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended.

Guiding principle: You bear the responsibility for your learning while your professors serve as guides, mentors, and resources.

Blue Mountain Community College

Student Health & Wellness Resource Center

Phone: 541-278-5965

Email: disabilityservices@bluecc.edu



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