



Accommodations Tips and Tricks for Students

1. **Be sure to self-advocate!** At the college level, students need to be their own advocate and pursue the resources they need.
2. **You should register for accommodations, even if they think they won't need them.** At college, the system is different. You don't have to take special classes, and no one in class will check in or check up on them so if they didn't like being in the special education system before, they shouldn't let their previous experiences keep them from registering.
3. **College disability services offices take students' privacy seriously.** The only people who need to know they have accommodations are the people who'll be involved in them, like professors. But professors have no right to know what students' disability is, and it's unlikely that the disability services office will tell them. (Students should ask Disability Services if they're worried about this.) That said, you can tell professors about your disability if you like.
4. **You should register for accommodations now.** (The approval process can take several weeks.) You should know that if they find they don't need them, no one can "make" you use them, but if they panic the night before their first exam, it will be too late to get accommodated for that test, and there are no "do-overs" for exams in college.
5. **If one or more of your requests is denied, you should ask how to appeal the decision.** You won't necessarily get a different answer, but it's worth trying.
6. **Students should remember that accommodations like extended time on tests won't be helpful if they don't keep up with readings and go to class.** You must know the material to do well. You should also know that research shows that students who were successful both used their accommodations and sought help at tutoring centers, writing centers, etc. Tell them that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.
7. **You should be your own study coach** (or seek help to learn how to do so). You should figure out what helps you focus – where can you study with the fewest distractions? How long can you read or study before you lose focus? At what time of day do you study most effectively? You should do your hardest work then. What worked in high school may not work in college. Seek help if they need new strategies.
8. **Just because you've already had to learn how you study best, you are probably going to be better off than your classmates who have never really had to try before!**



Difference between high school and college in skills needed and disability services provided	
High School	College
Guidance counselor organizes the student's class schedule	The student organizes their own class schedule
Good study skills may not be taught and may not be necessary for success	Good study skills are necessary for success
Teachers give frequent and regular feedback	Feedback may be infrequent
The semester is typically 18 weeks long	The semester is typically 15 weeks long
The student has a full year (36 weeks) to master course information	The student must master content in a single semester (15 weeks)
Use of a computer may not be necessary for written assignments	Computer skills are a must for all assignments
A few hours of study each week are required	10 to 15 hours of study per week per class is required
The school provides proof of disability	The student must provide proof of disability
Special education services are an entitlement	Special education services are provided at the discretion of the institution
Services are IEP driven	Services are disability driven
A resource teacher is available for daily help	Limited help is available through the campus disability office
Special educators automatically give help	Help must be requested by the student
Regular progress reports are given to parents	The student must inform his or her parents of progress
IDEA and Section 504 provide protection for services	ADA provides protection for services
From Essentials of Transition Planning by Paul Wehman	

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jordan Schuh M.Ed.' in a cursive, flowing style.

Jordan Schuh M.Ed.
Disability Services Coordinator
DSU-ADA@dsu.edu