

Transition to College

Legal Requirements

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in education and public accommodations.
- There must be equal access to all facilities, programs, services, and activities of the college.
- The college is NOT covered under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which applies to K-12 institutions and requires individualized education plans (IEPs). There is no Special Education in College.

What Is a Disability as Defined by the ADA?

- A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities
- What Is a Major Life Activity? Breathing, Seeing, Walking, Working, Hearing, Caring for oneself, Speaking, Learning,

Who Is Covered?

- Protects all persons with a disability from discrimination based solely on a disability in an educational setting.

How do I Receive Accommodations?

- Once accepted as a Gadsden State student, please contact the Disability Services (ADA) Office or a campus ADA Contact and self-identify as a student with a disability by completing the Accommodation Request Form.
- Provide current sufficient documentation of a disability.
- Set up an Intake appointment to review documentation, discuss eligibility and reasonable accommodations.

What about Documentation?

- Who is responsible for providing documentation?
 - Under the ADA and Section 504, it is the student's responsibility to provide adequate documentation of disability in postsecondary settings.

- What Documentation is required?
 - Gadsden State requires that a student provide documentation of his/her disability. A High School IEP, 504 Plan, and/or a letter from a physician or other professional may not be sufficient to document a disability. Documentation should come from a professional qualified to diagnose the disability. The documentation should be less than 3 years old. Documentation that suggests appropriate accommodations for the student is preferred. The ADA Coordinator, or ADA Campus Contact, uses both the documentation presented as well as the Intake Interview to decide whether the documentation is sufficient and complete, as well as whether the accommodations requested are appropriate in light of the documentation and information gleaned during the Intake Interview. Medication cannot be used to imply a diagnosis. The documentation process is usually a one-time event, unless the student requests further accommodations or exits the college for an extended time.

Who Pays for College?

The student is responsible for the costs associated with attending college. The student with a disability does not receive free tuition, or help with books from the college because of the disability. The student may however qualify for financial aid.

Classroom Placement

- IDEA/Special Education - Placement in special classrooms, resource, or regular classroom
- ADA/504 - Placement in regular classroom with accommodations. Some accommodations which are appropriate in high school are not appropriate in college. (Ex: Less choices on a multiple-choice test.) One-on-one instruction is not required in college.

What are Classroom Accommodations?

- Examples:
 1. Extended time for tests/quizzes
 2. Testing in a distraction-reduced environment
 3. Use of a recorder
 4. Use of CCTVs by visually impaired students
 5. Enlarge tests and handouts

Accommodations and Accessibility

- Interpreters, Captionists, textbooks in alternative formats, Readers/Scribes for exams, Buildings/Facilities, Information, Programs & Materials, Activities & Services

Institutions are Not Responsible for personal services such as:

- Attendants, tutors, readers for personal study, typists, nurses
- Personal devices such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, guide dogs, etc.

Plan Ahead

- Choose the college you plan to attend
- Request the requirements for admission
- If admitted, you may contact the Gadsden State Disability Services (ADA) Office or an ADA Campus Contact nearest the campus you plan to attend to set up an appointment. (They are listed on the Campus Contact link of the Disability Services Website.)
- Students needing accommodations on the Compass Placement Test should notify the ADA Coordinator at least two weeks in advance so that accommodations can be arranged in a timely manner, pclough@gadsdenstate.edu; 256-549-8462.