

Disability Services

High School vs. Postsecondary Education

Office of Student Accessibility and Accommodation

Student Accessibility and Accommodation is the designated office on campus that reviews documentation and student requests for disability accommodations. To qualify for accommodations at the postsecondary level, a student must be well enough to meet the academic and technical standards requisite for admission and participation in the institution's educational programs or activities. Students are covered under disability law if they can meet the academic standards with or without accommodations. SAA does not write accommodations for students who do NOT have disabilities.

Accessing Education at the University Level - What does this mean for you at Puget Sound?

- There is no Special Education at the college level; however, colleges must comply with federal law that protects all people with disabilities. Students are responsible for **self-identification**, **providing documentation**, and **participating in a collaborative process** with SAA to determine reasonable and necessary accommodations.
- IEPs and 504 plans from high school **do not automatically transfer** to the university level. Universities **are not required** to adopt the same accommodations that students had while in high school.

As documentation of a disability, SAA does accept IEPs and 504 plans with diagnosis and description of functional limitations. SAA accepts evaluations completed during K-12 because a student may learn how to compensate for a learning disability, but that does not mean they have outgrown it.

IEPs and 504 plans sometimes **modify academic expectations** based on a student's disabilities.

- EXAMPLE: Shortening a writing assignment from 10 to 5 pages for a student with dyslexia and ADHD.

In college, accommodations cannot change the **expectations** a professor has for their course. Post-Secondary accommodations focus on how a student **accesses** their education.

- Instead of shortening a writing assignment, a college-level accommodation could be the use of speech-to-text assistive technology. The assistive technology is an **aide in the method** of completing the assignment, but the assignment and academic expectation have not changed.

What are universities REQUIRED to do?	What are universities NOT REQUIRED to do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide reasonable accommodations to students under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act• Work directly with students (18+ years). Protect student's right to privacy• Provide access to any service, program, or activity sponsored by the institution• Provide necessary accommodations in order to meet established standards / requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide academic modifications that fundamentally alter the expectations of a course/program• Lower admission criteria for applicants with disabilities• Diagnose a disability or conduct testing/assessment of learning difficulties, physical or mental health concerns.• Provide personal attendants (aka paraprofessionals)• Provide coaching or private tutors• Prepare "Individualized Education Programs" (IEP's)

How does a parent/legal guardian's role change when a student registers with the Office of Student Accessibility and Accommodation?

- No progress reports will be given to parents
- The student is considered to be their own guardian; parents are no longer part of the accommodations process
- The student must advocate for themselves in their education

Student Responsibilities & Accommodations Process

1. Once admitted, students need to [Register with SAA to Request Disability Accommodations](#). Student will be asked to upload documentation that supports their disability.
2. Once the online request and documentation is received, SAA will contact students to schedule an Intake meeting with an accommodation specialist.
3. Following the Intake meeting, student will meet with SAA for a "How-to access and use your accommodation meeting."
4. Students are responsible to email saa@pugetsound.edu if an accommodation is not being implemented in the classroom, SAA Testing Center, or if they need to review accommodations.