

# College Accommodations Process

# How are college accommodations different than SAAS accommodations?

- A student must self disclose and be able to advocate for their own needs. Each semester students must continually notify teachers and develop individual plans.
- A lot of colleges won't work with parents
- Types of approved accommodations are limited and may not be identical to SAAS accommodations
- Documentation requirements are varied and not everything listed in an evaluation will be considered appropriate and approved.

# College Accommodations Steps

- Students must register with disability services
- Someone will sit down 1:1 and engage in an interactive process for an intake meeting. It will be essential for a student to be able to speak about their needs and necessary supports.
- A student must provide necessary documentation, but it isn't uncommon for a college to not approve everything requested
- Once accommodations are approved your student will receive an accommodations letter.
- Each semester your student must provide the letter to each individual teacher and explain their accommodation needs. Some schools do this electronically, some do not.
- If an accommodation is denied there is an appeal process to contest the decision.

# “Reasonable Accommodation”

## Determination of Reasonable Accommodations

Accommodations are approved on a case-by-case basis depending on the impact of the student's diagnosed disorder(s) and the reasonableness of the request. Reasonable accommodations are determined using the following analysis:

- The accommodation is directly related to the impact or functional limitations caused by the diagnosed disorder.
- The accommodation is not of a personal nature.
- The accommodation is necessary to provide equal access to the student.
- The accommodation does not lower academic or program standards.
- The accommodation does not fundamentally alter the essential elements of the course, program or activity.
- The accommodation does not present an undue financial or administrative burden on the university.
- The accommodation does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the student or others.

Examples of accommodations that may be considered *unreasonable* at the post-secondary level include, but are not limited to: transportation around campus, unlimited time on testing, ability to retake a test after the test has been graded, tutoring, and a decrease in the amount of work required in a class.

College  
Accommodations  
are governed by  
what's  
considered  
“reasonable  
accommodations”

# College Accommodations Documentation & Process

- Documentation guidelines and the accommodation request process will vary from school to school.

\*This is not a comprehensive list, just a starting place of a few schools students from SAAS have previously enrolled in for college to get a feel for the process and documentation requirements.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wwMCYpAueqyaey8IJh2vYB30CdYjMLXocwwN1G6NYY/edit?usp=sharing>

## **Common College Accommodations**

- Extra time for exams
- Distracted-reduced testing environment
- Use of a computer in the classroom
- Access to audio recordings of lectures & books
- Note-taker

## **Less Commonly Approved Accommodations**

- Preferential registration
- Reader - will often offer Assistive Tech to increase independence
- Scribe - will often offer Assistive Tech to increase independence

## **Accommodations Generally Seen as “Unreasonable”**

- Fundamentally Alter the Curriculum or remove essential pieces
- Pose a threat
- Financial Burden

# Common reasons why a student might not get what they want

- The documentation does not clearly outline a functional limitation and/or the student is unable to articulate well enough during the interactive process.
- The requested accommodation is not appropriate
- The request would fundamentally alter the curriculum and classroom expectations.
- The accommodation request goes against applicable laws or school policies

# Looking Ahead

- Review your documentation and make sure that you understand how to communicate about any learning differences and how they impact you. Why do accommodations help lessen the impact?
- Keep practicing self-advocacy.
- Once a college decision is made, be sure to reach out to the school and register for accommodations as soon as possible. Some schools have hard deadlines and it's better to have accommodations approved ahead of time than to find out you need them and can't register until the next semester.

Accommodations will not be granted retroactively





# Applying for College Accommodations

Please know that we'll be sending documentation you will need for college accommodations in the next 2 weeks.

- SAAS Formal Accommodations Plans
- Standardized Test Accommodation Letters
- Most recent evaluation documentation

Feel free to schedule a meeting with me at <https://calendly.com/jaymielewis> if you'd like help applying for college accommodations or have questions about the process.

## For Parents: Ways to support your student through the process.....

- Talk to them about their evaluation if you haven't yet
- Help your student develop language around what is hard for them and why

## Open Letter to Parents of Students with Disabilities About to Enter College

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Aacds%3AUS%3Abe782294-b2ce-4842-9a95-07bef2373a39>