Beyond High School:
Preparing for College Success

Transition Planning Night • October 20, 2026

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Tonight's conversation

- How high school formal plans differ from college accommodations
- Supports available to all students — and individualized accommodations
- College admissions, readiness, and self-advocacy
- UNF THRIVE
- FSCJ certificate pathways

Let's start with a few questions

- What concerns you most about the transition to college?
- What high school support are mort important to you?
- What would help you feel prepared for the first semester in college?

The legal foundation — in plain language

- In college, the ADA and Section 504 protest qualified students with disabilities from discrimination
- College provide reasonable accommodations for equal access, not a guarantee of a particular grade.
- College academic accommodations may differ from high school accommodations
- Academic standards and essential program requirements still apply

How do I register for accommodations in college?

- Contact the college's accessibility office
- Provide documentation of your disability
- Check email for an appointment request from the college's accessibility office
- Meet with accessibility staff to complete registration process and discuss appropriate accommodations based on your documentation and specific needs

Can my formal plan be used as documentation?

- Depends on the documentation. In general, colleges accept clinical documentation updated within the last 3 to 5 years
- The college's accessibility department reviews the information and may request additional documentation
- Reminder: not every accommodation you received in high school will be applicable in a college setting

What support is available?

Generally available to students

- Academic advising and course planning
- Tutoring and learning centers
- Success coaching and study strategies
- Career services and campus resources

Individualized disability accommodations

- Extended time on timed assessments
- Reduced-distraction or private testing
- Accessible materials or approved technology
- Other individually determined adjustments

Students with accommodations can also use general student services.

Examples of reasonable accommodations

- Extended time testing
- Reduced-distraction/private testing room
- Text-to-Speech, reader, accessible course materials when appropriate
- Disability related attendance or assignment due date flexibility when individually approved
- ASL Interpreter Services
- Other accommodations determined through an individual review

Who does what in college?

The student's responsibility

- Contacts the accessibility office early
- Shares relevant documentation and needs
- Reviews accommodation communications
- Arranges testing and reports concerns promptly

The college's responsibility

- Reviews requests individually
- Determines reasonable accommodations
- Coordinates approved access arrangements
- Explains policies, processes, and support resources

Self-advocacy starts now

- Practice explaining how you learn best and which supports are helpful.
- Write a professional email asking for assistance or clarification.
- Practice scheduling appointments and asking questions.
- Know how to contact instructors and campus support offices.

Academic and technology readiness

- Use a calendar for assignments, exams, and deadlines.
- Practice studying independently and asking for tutoring early.
- Learn your college email, learning platform, and student portal.
- Explore assistive technology and built-in accessibility tools.

Life skills and independence

- Manage transportation, schedules, and appointments.
- Understand budgeting, tuition deadlines, and financial aid.
- Identify trusted people and support resources.
- Practice solving problems while knowing when to ask for help.

Steps to apply for college

- Research programs and visit campuses or attend information sessions.
- Apply for admission and send required transcripts.
- Complete the FAFSA and explore scholarships or other funding.
- Check placement and program-specific requirements; tests are not required everywhere.
- Attend orientation, meet with an advisor, register for courses, and register for accommodations if needed.

Tips for Approved Accommodations

- Contact the college accessibility/disability services office before classes begin to ensure accommodations are approved and instructors are notified
- Introduce yourself to your instructors and discuss accommodation implementation
- Coordinate testing or other arrangements ahead of time.

College is not one-size-fits-all

- Career certificates: targeted training for specific occupations.
- Technical certificates: college-credit credentials that may connect to degree pathways.
- Associate degrees: often two-year programs, including transfer and workforce options.
- Bachelor’s degrees: four-year pathways offered by universities and some state colleges.
- Short-term workforce training may lead to industry credentials.

FSCJ certificate and workforce pathways

Official program details: Program Explorer

- Explore healthcare, information technology, business, public safety, and skilled trades.
- Some certificates can be completed in a shorter timeframe than a degree.
- Admission, prerequisites, costs, and financial aid eligibility vary by program.
- Use the FSCJ Program Explorer and the complete certificate-program handout to compare options.

Choosing a certificate: questions to ask

- What career or credential does the program prepare me for?
- Is it college-credit, clock-hour, or continuing workforce education?
- Does it lead to licensure or require a separate exam?
- Can credits apply toward a future associate degree?
- What are the costs, program prerequisites, and financial-aid rules?

UNF THRIVE: an overview

Independent educational overview — not official UNF advertising or endorsement.

- THRIVE is a supplemental support program for eligible UNF students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Focus areas include executive functioning, social skills, independent living, and career development.
- THRIVE is distinct from standard disability accommodations through UNF's Student Accessibility Center.
- Participation has separate eligibility and application requirements.

THRIVE vs. college accommodations

THRIVE program

- Supplemental structured support for eligible participants
- May target executive function, social, career and living skills
- Separate program application and selection process

Accessibility accommodations

- Reasonable adjustments for disability-related access
- Individualized review of requested accommodations
- Available to eligible students regardless of THRIVE participation

THRIVE information is provided for educational purposes; UNF is the official source.

Before your first college semester

- Confirm admission, financial aid, registration, and payment deadlines.
- Meet with your academic advisor and review your course schedule.
- Contact accessibility services well before your first exam.
- Find tutoring, coaching, and other student resources.
- Check student email and course sites regularly.

Helpful starting points

- FSCJ program options: Program Explorer
- FSCJ student support: Student Support Services
- UNF THRIVE official information: UNF: The THRIVE Program at UNF
- UNF Student Accessibility Center: UNF: Student Accessibility Center
- Ask each institution directly about current procedures and deadlines.

Questions and next steps

Your next step: choose one college or career pathway to explore and identify one support office to contact.

FSCJ Student Support Services • Kent Campus

Contact: ashlee.holloway@fscj.edu, accommodateme@fscj.edu

Thank you, Bishop Snyder families!