



Figure 1 Photo of Rows of colorful books in a library

Disability Accommodations in College

The Basics

A basic guideline to introduce you to asking for support to go to college when you have a disability.

Academic accommodations are supports you can ask for and are provided based on disability-related needs under sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about accommodations please see video link below:

<https://bit.ly/2SVC7hi>

ADA and FERPA IMPORTANT LAWS TO KNOW:

ADA: The Americans with Disabilities Act is a law that stops discrimination and ensures equal opportunities for people with disabilities in employment and public services and places including college.

FERPA: (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
This law protects students' right to be private and confidential about college information. You can sign an agreement to let people who support you read your college information.

TYPES OF ACCOMMODATIONS:

Once the student registers with the Disability Services office, the accommodation requests can be discussed, approved, and put in place. Professors will then be notified about how to support you as their student. Some supports include: a note-taker, extra time for tests, early registration for classes, digital books, audio text, preferred seating, able to tape lectures, quiet testing room, and breaks as needed. Be sure to contact the Disability Services office as soon as possible. They will need paperwork about your disability, and you will need to register with their office.

ACCOMMODATIONS PROCESS: START EARLY!

The student must contact the Disability Services office, self-identify as a student with a disability, and make a request for disability-related accommodations.

Most colleges require students to:

- Complete an application for disability services**
- Submit disability verification documentation**
- Attend an appointment with a counselor**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

Do they have other students with the same needs as me?

Is what I have described a possibility with this campus?

Can they see a student like me succeeding on this campus with the disability office's support?

Do I sense acceptance here?

Am I comfortable here?

Are they respectful, and do they take me seriously?

Is this campus too big, small, far, or is there something else that could make it hard for me to be a student here?

**For more information, please visit www.selfadvocacyinfo.org
Basic Guide created by Samuel Capozzi with thanks to:**

**The Self- Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center
(SARTAC)**



Figure 2 SARTAC logo colorful people linking arms in a circle around an open blue book

**and The Autism and Communication Center at California Lutheran
University**



Figure 3 California Lutheran University Autism and Communication Center logo in purple letters with yellow accent

“This publication is supported in part by a cooperative agreement from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities policy.”

“The Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) seeks to strengthen the self-advocacy movement by supporting self-advocacy organizations to grow in diversity and leadership. The resource center is a project of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), the oldest national self-advocacy organization in the country. SARTAC is a Developmental Disabilities Project of National Significance, funded by the Administration For Community Living–

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). The information in this manual was written to provide guidance for self-Advocates and their allies to assist in understanding policy issues affecting their lives. It is not to be used to determine a person's legal rights or an organization's legal responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, as amended or any other federal, state or local laws written to protect the rights of people with disabilities.”