Disability Services in College

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Disability in High School vs. College

| | High School | College |
|---|---|---|
| Laws Involved | IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) – guarantees appropriate education to children with disabilities | ADAAA (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act) – prohibits discrimination and lays out rules for accommodations |
| | Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – prohibits discrimination | Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – prohibits discrimination |
| Schools Responsibility | Success | Access |
| Who starts the process? | Teachers, administrators, or parents Students | |
| Parental Involvement | Heavy | Limited; parent supports student |
| Who get's the information about the disability? | All teachers and administrators | Only disability services staff |
| Evaluations | Free and performed by school | Not provided by school; student must seek out evaluation independently |

Common college accommodations

- Extended time on exams
 - 1.5x / 50% is most common
 - 1.25x / 25% is also used at some schools
 - 2x / 100% is less common, but more likely to be approved if the student had it in HS
- Reduced distraction space / separate setting
- Frequent breaks
- Alternative formats
 - Audiobooks
 - E-text
 - Braille
- Extensions on assignments / Flexible attendance
 - The rules are different not for time management!

- Note-taking accommodations
 - Peer note-takers
 - Software (Glean, Messenger Pigeon)
 - Recording lectures
 - Copies of PPTs
 - Use of laptop/iPad
- Requirement waivers/substitutions
 - Foreign Language
 - Math / Quantitative Reasoning
 - Reduced Course Load ("underenrolling")
- Physical access: wheelchair desks, preferred seating, class clustering, etc.
- Honorable mention: housing accommodations

What colleges can't provide (by law!)

- Cannot pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others
- Cannot place **undue burden** (financial or administrative)
 - Creating a new section of a course
 - Moving a section to a different time
- Cannot make a **substantial change to an essential element** of the curriculum
 - Exemption from public speaking
 - Removing a reading with triggering content
- Cannot fundamentally alter the manner in which services are provided
 - Remote learning instead of in-person
 - Change a test from essay to multiple choice

...or, there may simply be **no barrier to access** in the first place, and therefore no need for a formal accommodation

Check-ins with teachers

What should students expect when working with the Disability Services office?

Registration Process

Each school's process will vary, but all have the same key elements



Make contact with the office



Submit documentation



Intake Meeting



Review approvals / Formal registration



Notify professors



Schedule/utilize accommodations

Documentation

- What information do we need?
 - Diagnosis
 - Functional limitations
 - Specific: major life activities as defined by the ADAAA
 - Walking, concentrating, reading, hearing, etc...
 - Recommendations
 - Considered but not guaranteed

- ✓ Neuropsychs done during re-eval are typically accepted
- X **IEPs and 504s** are usually <u>supplementary</u>









Suggested Timeline

Deciding Where to Apply

- Contact DS office
 - Find a "person"
 - Practice selfadvocacy
- Learn about:
 - general services (coaching, advising, tutoring, writing and math supports, etc.)
 - documentation requirements
- Note: Including IEPs or 504s with application is not recommended. They will not be considered or sent to disability services

Admitted!

- Go through formal accommodation process
 - This part can take <u>multiple weeks</u>! Don't wait until August!!
 - Start any time; don't need to wait until graduation, deposit, orientation, etc.
- Optional: compare approvals for multiple schools before committing

Ahead of classes starting

- Request notification letters
 - This will <u>not</u> happen automatically
- Connect with professors (optional but recommended)
- Review logistics
 - How do I use my accommodations?
 - Who can I turn to for help?

Questions?

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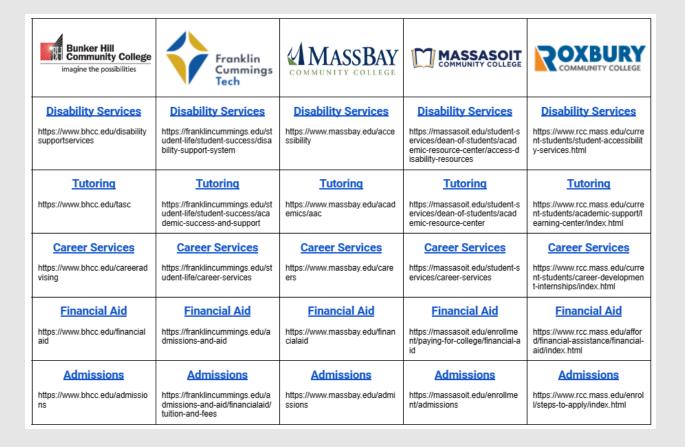
Appendix

Resources at UMass Boston

| Office | Students Served | Services Offered | Link |
|---|--|--|--|
| Ross Center for Disability Services | Students with disabilities | Academic accommodations, academic coaching | https://www.umb.edu/academics /seas/disability-services/ |
| Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) | All enrolled | Subject Tutoring, academic coaching, mentoring, workshops, instructional support | https://www.umb.edu/academics/seas/center-for-academic-excellence/ |
| Writing Center | All enrolled | Individual writing consultations, writing groups, workshops | https://www.umb.edu/writingcen ter/ |
| Taffee Tanimoto Math Resource Center | Students enrolled in 100- and 200-level math courses | Math tutoring | https://www.umb.edu/science- mathematics/academic- departments/mathematics/math- tutoring-advising/ |
| Career Engagement & Success | All students and alumni | Career exploration, internships, networking, resume/interview prep | https://www.umb.edu/academics /seas/career-services/ |

Resources at UMass Boston Continued

| Office | Students Served | Services Offered | Link |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Counseling Center | All enrolled (regardless of insurance coverage) | Initial consults, medication evaluations, individual therapy, off-campus care access, crisis intervention | https://www.umb.edu/health- services/counseling-center/ |
| Asian American Resource Office | Asian American students | Drop-in affinity space, career coaching, success | https://www.umb.edu/academics /seas/aaro/ |
| Student Support Services (TRiO) | First-generation, low- income, and/or students with disabilities | Financial aid counseling, tutoring, mentoring, community building, Foundations course, tuition grants, laptop loaners | https://www.umb.edu/academics /seas/student-support-services- sss/ |
| U-ACCESS | All UMB students taking at least one credit | Support for food and housing insecurity, financial counseling, legal consults | https://www.umb.edu/academics /seas/pre-collegiate-programs/ |
| The One Stop | All | Financial Aid, Registrar's, and Bursar's | https://www.umb.edu/onestop/ |



Here's a great resource created by folks at BPS!

Interactive version:

https://tinyurl.com/ BPS-to-College



Credit: Catherine Chiu