

# Disability Services in College

Hannah Huynh, Assistant Director  
Ross Center for Disability Services  
University of Massachusetts Boston

# Disability in High School vs. College

	High School	College
Laws Involved	<p><b>IDEA</b> (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) – guarantees appropriate education to children with disabilities</p> <p><b>Section 504</b> of the Rehabilitation Act – prohibits discrimination</p>	<p><b>ADAAA</b> (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act) – prohibits discrimination and lays out rules for accommodations</p> <p><b>Section 504</b> of the Rehabilitation Act – prohibits discrimination</p>
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 (“under-enrolling”)
- 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*

✗ ***IEPs and 504s** are usually supplementary*



# Suggested Timeline

## Deciding Where to Apply

- Contact DS office
- Find a "person"
- Practice self-advocacy
- 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 multiple weeks! 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 not happen automatically
- Connect with professors (*optional but recommended*)
- Review logistics
  - How do I use my accommodations?
  - Who can I turn to for help?



# Questions?

Hannah Huynh  
[hannah.huynh@umb.edu](mailto:hannah.huynh@umb.edu)





# Appendix

# Resources at UMass Boston

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

# 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	<a href="https://www.umb.edu/health-services/counseling-center/">https://www.umb.edu/health-services/counseling-center/</a>
Asian American Resource Office	Asian American students	Drop-in affinity space, career coaching, success coaching	<a href="https://www.umb.edu/academics/seas/aaro/">https://www.umb.edu/academics/seas/aaro/</a>
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	<a href="https://www.umb.edu/academics/seas/student-support-services-sss/">https://www.umb.edu/academics/seas/student-support-services-sss/</a>
U-ACCESS	All UMB students taking at least one credit	Support for food and housing insecurity, financial counseling, legal consults	<a href="https://www.umb.edu/academics/seas/pre-collegiate-programs/">https://www.umb.edu/academics/seas/pre-collegiate-programs/</a>
The One Stop	All	Financial Aid, Registrar's, and Bursar's	<a href="https://www.umb.edu/onestop/">https://www.umb.edu/onestop/</a>

				
<u><a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/disabilitysupportservices">Disability Services</a></u> <a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/disabilitysupportservices">https://www.bhcc.edu/disabilitysupportservices</a>	<u><a href="https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/student-success/disability-support-system">Disability Services</a></u> <a href="https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/student-success/disability-support-system">https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/student-success/disability-support-system</a>	<u><a href="https://www.massbay.edu/accessibility">Disability Services</a></u> <a href="https://www.massbay.edu/accessibility">https://www.massbay.edu/accessibility</a>	<u><a href="https://massasoit.edu/student-services/dean-of-students/academic-resource-center/access-disability-resources">Disability Services</a></u> <a href="https://massasoit.edu/student-services/dean-of-students/academic-resource-center/access-disability-resources">https://massasoit.edu/student-services/dean-of-students/academic-resource-center/access-disability-resources</a>	<u><a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/student-accessibility-services.html">Disability Services</a></u> <a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/student-accessibility-services.html">https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/student-accessibility-services.html</a>
<u><a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/tasc">Tutoring</a></u> <a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/tasc">https://www.bhcc.edu/tasc</a>	<u><a href="https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/student-success/academic-success-and-support">Tutoring</a></u> <a href="https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/student-success/academic-success-and-support">https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/student-success/academic-success-and-support</a>	<u><a href="https://www.massbay.edu/academics/aac">Tutoring</a></u> <a href="https://www.massbay.edu/academics/aac">https://www.massbay.edu/academics/aac</a>	<u><a href="https://massasoit.edu/student-services/dean-of-students/academic-resource-center">Tutoring</a></u> <a href="https://massasoit.edu/student-services/dean-of-students/academic-resource-center">https://massasoit.edu/student-services/dean-of-students/academic-resource-center</a>	<u><a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/academic-support/learning-center/index.html">Tutoring</a></u> <a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/academic-support/learning-center/index.html">https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/academic-support/learning-center/index.html</a>
<u><a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/careeradvising">Career Services</a></u> <a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/careeradvising">https://www.bhcc.edu/careeradvising</a>	<u><a href="https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/career-services">Career Services</a></u> <a href="https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/career-services">https://frankincummings.edu/student-life/career-services</a>	<u><a href="https://www.massbay.edu/careers">Career Services</a></u> <a href="https://www.massbay.edu/careers">https://www.massbay.edu/careers</a>	<u><a href="https://massasoit.edu/student-services/career-services">Career Services</a></u> <a href="https://massasoit.edu/student-services/career-services">https://massasoit.edu/student-services/career-services</a>	<u><a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/career-development/internships/index.html">Career Services</a></u> <a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/career-development/internships/index.html">https://www.rcc.mass.edu/current-students/career-development/internships/index.html</a>
<u><a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/financialaid">Financial Aid</a></u> <a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/financialaid">https://www.bhcc.edu/financialaid</a>	<u><a href="https://frankincummings.edu/admissions-and-aid">Financial Aid</a></u> <a href="https://frankincummings.edu/admissions-and-aid">https://frankincummings.edu/admissions-and-aid</a>	<u><a href="https://www.massbay.edu/financialaid">Financial Aid</a></u> <a href="https://www.massbay.edu/financialaid">https://www.massbay.edu/financialaid</a>	<u><a href="https://massasoit.edu/enrollment/paying-for-college/financial-aid">Financial Aid</a></u> <a href="https://massasoit.edu/enrollment/paying-for-college/financial-aid">https://massasoit.edu/enrollment/paying-for-college/financial-aid</a>	<u><a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/afford/financial-assistance/financial-aid/index.html">Financial Aid</a></u> <a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/afford/financial-assistance/financial-aid/index.html">https://www.rcc.mass.edu/afford/financial-assistance/financial-aid/index.html</a>
<u><a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/admissions">Admissions</a></u> <a href="https://www.bhcc.edu/admissions">https://www.bhcc.edu/admissions</a>	<u><a href="https://frankincummings.edu/admissions-and-aid/financialaid/tuition-and-fees">Admissions</a></u> <a href="https://frankincummings.edu/admissions-and-aid/financialaid/tuition-and-fees">https://frankincummings.edu/admissions-and-aid/financialaid/tuition-and-fees</a>	<u><a href="https://www.massbay.edu/admissions">Admissions</a></u> <a href="https://www.massbay.edu/admissions">https://www.massbay.edu/admissions</a>	<u><a href="https://massasoit.edu/enrollment/admissions">Admissions</a></u> <a href="https://massasoit.edu/enrollment/admissions">https://massasoit.edu/enrollment/admissions</a>	<u><a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/enroll/steps-to-apply/index.html">Admissions</a></u> <a href="https://www.rcc.mass.edu/enroll/steps-to-apply/index.html">https://www.rcc.mass.edu/enroll/steps-to-apply/index.html</a>

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

Interactive version:

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



**Credit: Catherine Chiu**