
*High School Students (Dual Enrolled, Early College,
Collegiate High School, and Early Admissions)*

TAKING COLLEGE COURSES:

How exciting! You are taking your first step in your higher education journey here at St. Petersburg College (SPC). Regardless of your age, there is very important information you need to know as you prepare for college classes.

- You will have the same responsibilities as other college students. As a college student you are expected to follow St. Petersburg College's policies and adhere to posted deadlines. You are also expected to follow St. Petersburg College's Student Code of Conduct, which may be different from your high school Code of Conduct.
- Your faculty will want to work directly with you. As a college student you must advocate for yourself. College professors are not required to communicate with or work with your parents, guardians, or advocates. Students take the lead. Parents may support students, but as college enrollees, students must be the primary communicators in this process. We strongly encourage you to regularly communicate with your faculty. SPC faculty love working with their students, but students must reach out to their faculty to discuss course questions or concerns. If you or your parent/ guardian have questions or concerns on how to communicate with your faculty, please contact either the Dual Enrolled office or the Collegiate High School you attend.
- All students in college courses are expected to do the same work, cover the same material, and meet the same course outcomes. All students, including those with disabling conditions, are required to submit their assignments in the manner the professor requires. The professor expects that all students complete the course as it is originally designed. In high school, your IEP and 504 plans may require that your teachers teach you in a different manner than your non-disabled peers as an accommodation/ modification. They may also change the class curriculum to accommodate you. This is different from how colleges accommodate students. **College professors teach all students in the same manner but provide academic accommodations to reduce disability related barriers to access.**

THE DISABILITY LAWS ARE DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) does not apply to colleges and universities. As a student with a disabling condition in high school under IDEA or

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, you are provided with various supports and services. These laws allow your high school to provide you with specially designed instruction, support services, modifications, and accommodations, which are considered reasonable.

The laws colleges and universities must follow are the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008(ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The chart below shows the difference between the ADAAA/ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and IDEA:

IDEA/ Section 504 (High School)	ADAAA/Section 504 (College)
Law of Entitlement: Guarantees progress in light of the student's individual circumstance	Civil Rights Law: Guarantees ACCESS
Every Child is entitled to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the "least restrictive environment" possible.	Students must be "otherwise qualified" to enter college, without consideration of disability. Students participate in the general curriculum of the college.
Requires at least a yearly meeting of general education teachers, special education teachers, and auxiliary service personnel to discuss progress and set goals.	The student is responsible for meeting with disability services and with instructors to discuss needs and concerns.
Often involves significant modification of the curriculum and of assessments (e.g., students may learn only the major concepts of a unit, may be able to take shortened tests, or be exempt from certain assignments.)	Instructors are NOT required nor encouraged to fundamentally alter the content or goals of their courses or the types of tests that are given, though they may be required to make changes that do not affect essential content or goals.

THE ACCOMMODATION PROCESS IS DIFFERENT:

In college, the Accessibility Office will review and determine reasonable accommodations which allows the college to reduce disability related barriers while not changing the essential elements of the course. Approved college accommodations may be different than what is listed in or recommended in your documentation. Per the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act 2008 and 504, college academic accommodations do not have to be exactly what you request or what is listed in your disability documentation. Accommodations are required to address the functional limitations of your disability and may be different than your preference.

Under the ADAAA, all approved accommodations must be reasonable and must not fundamentally change the nature of the curriculum or the course. This means that we cannot approve any accommodation if it changes the nature of your course.

Here at St. Petersburg College, your IEP or 504 plan shows a history of you being accommodated as a student with a disabling condition in high school, it does not guarantee that you will be approved for the same accommodations in college. In addition, it is your responsibility to identify yourself as a student with a disability, go through the Accessibility Interactive Process with SPC's Accessibility Services, and request accommodations for your college courses each semester. Until you do this, you will not receive accommodations/modifications/auxiliary aides. In addition, your college faculty will not provide you with academic accommodations until you are approved for accommodations through SPC's Accessibility Services.

Steps on how to complete this process can be found here:

<https://www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/about/compliance-statements/accessibility-services>

SPC's documentation guidelines can be found here:<https://www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/about/compliance-statements/accessibility-services/accessibility-documentation>

COLLEGE STUDENTS MUST REQUEST ACCOMMODATIONS

Students, not the college, are responsible for requesting accommodations. In high school, your school was responsible for identifying you as a student with a disabling condition, providing you with accommodations and getting those accommodations to all teachers and personnel that work with you. In post-secondary education, students must actively request accommodations each semester when or if needed. Your faculty member will not accommodate you until he or she has received an email accommodation notification from SPC Accessibility Services.

Accommodations will not be applied retroactively. It may take multiple weeks to complete the SPC's Accessibility Services interactive process. If you begin this process too late, you will not receive your accommodations until well into the semester. Your accommodations begin once the faculty member receives the email accommodation notification and is given sufficient time to make arrangements for these accommodations. Due to this, we recommend that you begin the Accessibility Services registration process as soon as possible, see link below.

St. Petersburg College's Accessibility Services:

<https://www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/about/compliance-statements/accessibility-services>

CHECKLIST FOR PARENT AND/OR GUARDIANS:

- ✓ Contact your home high school counselor or case manager to sign the Pinellas County Schools Release of Information Form so that St. Petersburg College can share pertinent information concerning your student.

- ✓ Please discuss with your student's IEP Team where and how IEP goals, service delivery time and support services will be implemented at the home high school. No IEP services will be implemented in college coursework. Only college approved accommodations.

- ✓ Make sure you or your student provide all current IEP, 504 plans, psychoeducational reports or medical documentation to the St. Petersburg College Accessibility Office. Schools will not automatically send them.

- ✓ Make sure your student registers with the Accessibility Office on the Accessibility page to be contacted by an Accessibility Coordinator for the Interactive Process meeting. <https://www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/about/compliance-statements/accessibility-services>

- ✓ Remember that the Interactive Process will focus on conversations with your student. A parent, advocate or any other person your student wants to bring may attend but the focus of the meeting will be conversation between the Accessibility Coordinator and your student.