



**STUDENT
DISABILITY CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

	High School	College
Class Time	6 hours/day, 180 days = 1,080 total	12 hours/week minimum, 30 weeks = 360 total (not counting finals)
Study Time	1 – 2 hours per day	3 – 4 hours of homework/day
Size of class	Relatively small, 20 to 30 students	Ranges from small (30) to very large (300 or more)
Reading and Writing	The reading and writing requirements for most classes can be done with minimal outside work.	College is a reading and writing-intensive environment.
Tests	Weekly; at the end of a chapter, frequent quizzes	2 – 4 per semester, at end of unit, final exams often cumulative
Attendance	Take attendance	Instructors may or may not take attendance
Course Modifications	Permissible	Not required. Core courses are not waived; substitutions may be allowed. Must be appropriate to the type of disability.
Course Adjustments	Permissible	Not required if it impacts course integrity (fundamental nature of course) or standard competencies (essential requirements).
Self-Advocacy	Few opportunities; structure of laws make it difficult for students to take control of their services.	Required, as ruled by the Office of Civil Rights.
Freedom	Structured – most of the time. Limits are set by parents, teachers, or other adults	Student decides. Should I go to class? Can I make it on 4 hours of sleep? Can I skip studying today?
Release of Info to Parents	Permissible if student is under 18.	Regardless of age, not without consent (signed release) from student unless student is a dependent.
Documentation (IEPs, SOPs, 504s)	Acceptable. School provides	May be insufficient to verify disability and its impact on the student. Student responsible for providing appropriate documentation to support request for accommodations.

	High School	College
Support Services	School has responsibility to find those who need services and provide the services.	Student initiates the process by meeting with SDC. Confirmation of disability required. Based on student information, SDC recommends accommodations. Student chooses to use or not.
Tutoring	Often provided as part of support services during the school day. Free – individualized and personal.	Not considered an accommodation and therefore not required. May be available through other campus resources. Some are free and some may not be.
Service Types	Most high schools offer similar services and the way to access those services is the same.	A variety of services are available to any student at CSU, including medical and counseling services. Minimal costs involved.

Adapted from *Promoting Postsecondary Education for Students with Learning Disabilities*, by L. Brinckerhoff, S. F. Shaw and J. M. McGuire; p. 6, 1993, PRO-ED, Texas, USA.