

T. Scott Smith Consulting

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Discussing Accommodations with Your Professors

Educational Brochure for College Students

Overview

Once accommodations are approved through the disability services office, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with professors about how those accommodations will be used in each course. These conversations can feel uncomfortable at first, but they are a normal and expected part of college.

Learning how to discuss accommodations clearly and professionally helps ensure your needs are understood and supports a positive working relationship with your instructors.

What to Know Before Talking with Professors

- Professors are required to honor approved accommodations
- Accommodation letters outline what is approved, not your diagnosis
- You decide how much personal information to share
- Communication should be respectful and professional
- Accommodations must be discussed early whenever possible

Student Communication Checklist

- ✓ Review your accommodation letter before the semester begins
- ✓ Email or meet with professors during office hours early in the term
- ✓ Explain how accommodations will be used in that specific course
- ✓ Ask questions if expectations are unclear
- ✓ Follow up if accommodations are not being implemented correctly

Recommendations for Students

Practicing these conversations can reduce anxiety and improve confidence. Being prepared, organized, and respectful increases the likelihood of positive outcomes. These communication skills are also directly applicable to discussing accommodations in future employment settings.

For More Information

For individualized guidance, transition planning, or vocational rehabilitation services related to college students with autism, please contact:

Dr. T. Scott Smith

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

collegeandautism.com

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