

Possible Impacts of the College Admissions Cheating Scandal on Special Testing Needs for People with Documented Disabilities or Health Conditions

By [Bonnie Bartos](#) posted 04-30-2019 21:59

News announcements on details of the College Admissions Cheating Scandal have generated lots of concern and discussion around the topic of accessibility rights for people with disabilities and documented chronic health issues. There are many hardworking students with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, and chronic health issues who require special testing services. Sometimes that involves having a reader for someone with dyslexia. A person with information processing difficulties might require additional time for testing so they can repeatedly read questions to allow them to take in all of the necessary information. A student with diabetes may need more time allotted for the exam in case they have symptoms of hyper- or hypoglycemia. The student with blood sugar fluctuation would have to go into the main area of a testing center to evaluate and treat the glucose level and then return to their computer once able to resume testing.

These student's requests through the testing centers may be looked on more skeptically or even denied after the College Admissions Cheating Scandal. Healthy young people were granted extra testing time due to statements provided by their parents and other professionals claiming that they required more testing time due to learning disabilities or health issues. Some of the students did not (or claimed not to) know about this special accommodation detail or the reasons for the added time allowance. I am somewhat suspicious of a person claiming not to know or have any involvement in the false claim for an adapted testing time as your Access Pass or paper allowing you to take the test has a statement declaring why you have additional time allowance for the test.

Hopefully, healthcare providers were not involved in these declarations of fictitious disabilities. I wonder how the students feel about the actions of their parents and the fact that they did not have enough faith in their child and his or her knowledge base to allow them to take the admissions tests on their own using the standard time frame. The unfortunate issue of the fallout from this scam is that some students with valid disabilities and increased testing time needs are wondering if they will get the extra testing time. Some have voiced that they have worried about how colleges will look at their application materials if they provide any information on adaptive needs or their disability.

What are your thoughts on this issue?

Permalink:

<https://www.adcesconnect.org/blogs/bonnie-bartos1/2021/02/12/possible-impacts-of-the-college-admissions-cheatin>