

Accessing Services on a Large Campus: Preparing for the Transition to College for Students with Disabilities

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Goals

- Clarify the differences between high school and college
- Review the student experience at a large institution of higher education
- Explain how the accommodation process in higher education is different than K-12
- Provide you with tips and suggestions to help you prepare for the transition

Differences between high school and college

- Class Size
 - Depending on the institution and type of class, size can vary from 15-500 students in the lecture
- Instruction Formats
 - Lecture based
 - Recitations/Seminars/Labs taught by graduate teaching assistants
- Feedback on progress
 - Up to the student: Typically will need to be proactive in talking with faculty member during office hours or schedule an appointment

Differences between high school and college

- Academic Responsibilities & Support
 - Students are responsible for managing their own time and completing assignments independently
 - Academic support resources may be located in a number of decentralized places on campus
 - Tutoring
 - Supplemental Instruction
 - TRiO
 - Disability Center
 - Academic Advising

Differences between high school and college

K – 12 Education

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - Subpart D
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Goal = Success

Postsecondary Education

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - Subpart E
- Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended)

Goal = Equal Access

Accommodation Process

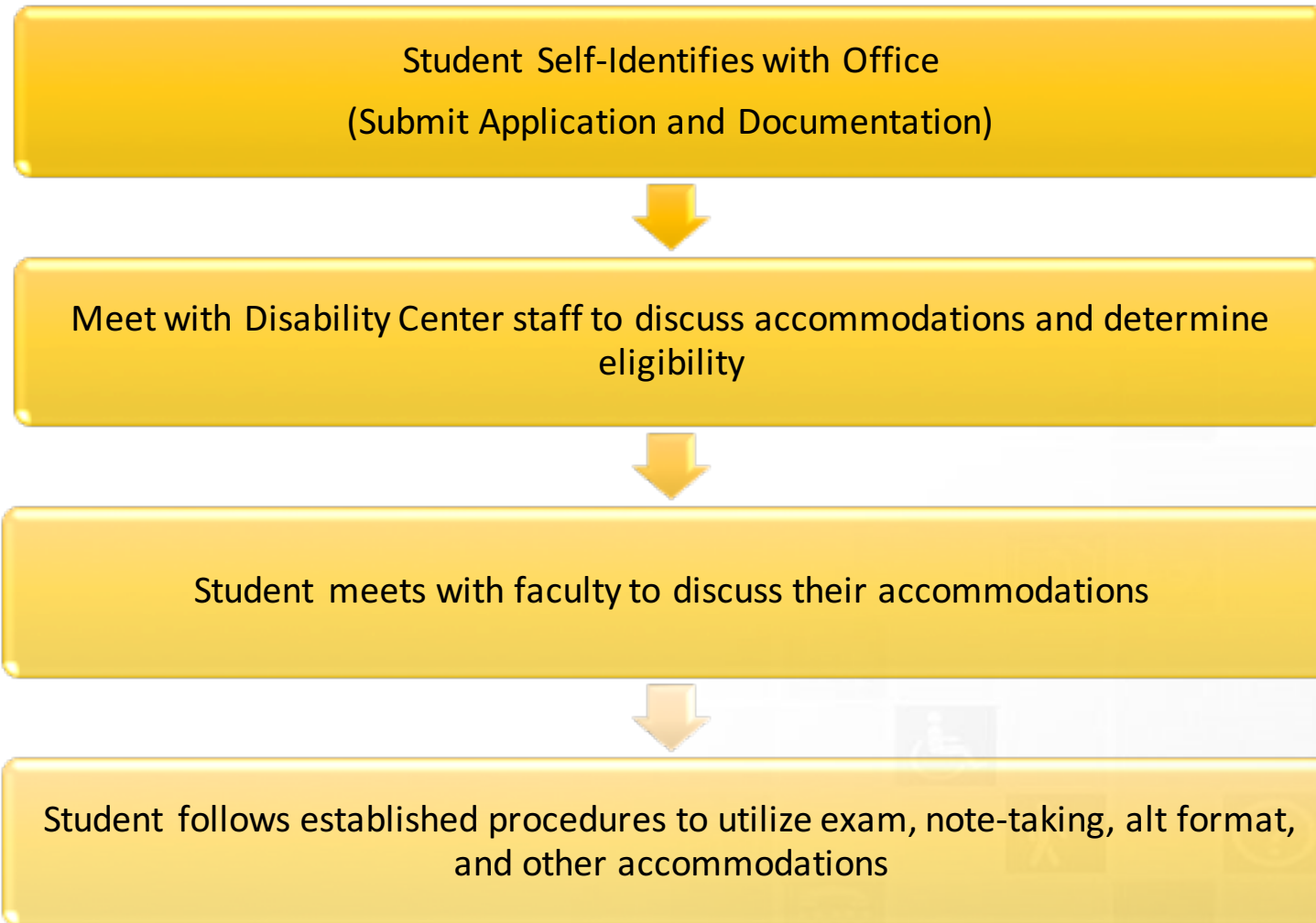
K – 12 Education

- Passive role in accommodations
 - School is responsible for identifying students with disabilities and providing accommodations
 - Information is shared with parents/guardians

Postsecondary Education

- Active role in accommodations
 - Student must self-identify as a person with a disability to the appropriate office to receive services
 - Students are responsible for their own educational choices and sign their own paperwork

Accommodation Process



Tips to Prepare for the Transition

- Visit the colleges you are interested in attending
 - Ask to visit their Disability Center and get information regarding their process to request accommodations
 - Ask about all of the academic resources available
 - Obtain information regarding the admissions requirements
 - Choose the institution that best fits your academic interests and needs
- Make yourself the expert on your disability!
 - Understand your diagnosis & accommodation needs
- Be an active participant in transition-related meetings

Tips from Current MU Students

“When you have selected a school, it is crucial to find out the services provided on the campus, and see what you need to do before the semester begins so you are already prepared and ready to begin right away with your accommodations set up. Depending on the school, majority of them want documentation of your diagnosis and/or if you have had an IEP/504 plan for validation, and to know how to best fit your needs in college. ”



Tips from Current MU Students

“Request accommodations and meet with your professors as early in the semester as possible. It makes the first week of school pretty busy, but you will thank yourself later because you will not be in a time crunch to meet with them once your workload starts to increase. Be proactive--professors LOVE it.”



Tips from Current MU Students

“Each class is set up differently, so sometimes your accommodations vary. It is important to communicate with the Disability Center of the campus and with each professor which accommodations you do plan to use. Take advantage of all the resources provided on your campus and Disability Center has to offer that will help you to succeed and grow in college!”



Questions & Information

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