

High School Transition for Incoming Freshman

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Welcome to the University of Utah!

Whether you have already decided to come to the University of Utah, or are still considering your options, the transition from secondary to postsecondary education can be an exciting one. However, there are some important differences between high school and college. We hope this information can help you as you prepare for the transition to college!

Making The Transition from Secondary to Post Secondary Education

The Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973) prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. School districts and postsecondary schools in the United States are subject to these laws, which have similar requirements. In addition, school districts are subject to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA and its Individualized Education Program (IEP) provisions do not apply to postsecondary schools (colleges and universities). Under Section 504, school districts must provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each child with a disability in the district's jurisdiction. Whatever the disability, a school district must identify a student's educational need, provide any regular or special education, related aids and services necessary to meet these needs as well as assist meeting the needs of students without disabilities.

Difference Between Secondary and Post Secondary

School districts and postsecondary schools must comply with Section 504 and the ADA.

However, the responsibility for implementation in colleges and universities are significantly different than high schools. College students must comply with different regulations from high school regulations.

Unlike Services Under IDEA

The University of Utah is not required to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE). The law requires, however, that the University provide appropriate academic accommodations as necessary to ensure that an individual is not discriminated against on the basis of disability. In providing accommodations, the University of Utah is not required to lower standards or modify the essential course requirements. For example, the University may provide extended time, but it is not required to change the substantive content of the test. In addition, it is not necessary for the University of Utah to make modifications that would fundamentally alter the nature of service, program or activity, or would result in undue financial or administrative burdens. The University of Utah is not required to provide personal attendants, individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices of a personal nature such as tutoring.

Accommodations at College

Appropriate accommodations are determined based upon disability and individual needs. Accommodations may include auxiliary aids and services, priority registration, note takers, sign language interpreters, extended time for exams and computers with screen-readers, voice recognition or other adaptive software or hardware. To request accommodations contact the Center for Disability Services. The University of Utah is not required to identify you as having

a disability or assess your needs. Disclosure of a disability is voluntary. However, students who wish to have accommodations must identify as having a disability. In addition, students should identify to ensure that facilities for classes are accessible.

Sufficient Documentation

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan may identify services that have been effective; however, it is generally not sufficient documentation to establish accommodations. Postsecondary education presents different demands than high school and students must demonstrate functional limitations by submitting appropriate documentation. Documentation submitted must meet postsecondary school requirements. The University of Utah notifies students of the additional information that must be submitted to qualify for accommodations.

Psychometric and Academic Evaluations

The University of Utah or the student's high school is not required to conduct or pay for a new evaluation to document a disability and need for accommodations. Students should arrange for an evaluation by a qualified professional and secure payment. Students may be eligible for services through Utah State Office of Rehabilitation. If students meet qualifications, an evaluation may be conducted at no cost. Contact the regional vocational rehabilitation agency at (801) 538-7530 or 1-800-473-7530.

Grievance Procedures

Grievance procedures for postsecondary institutions are not the same as high school grievance procedures. Students, who feel that the University of Utah has not met the provisions mandated by Section 504 or the ADA, may follow the established grievance process by contacting the Director for the Center for Disability Services. Students may also contact the University of Utah ADA Coordinator, 135 Park Building, (801) 581-8365, to address concerns.

The Center for Disability Services

The Center for Disability Services (CDS) is dedicated to students with disabilities by providing the opportunity for success and equal access at the University of Utah. We are committed to providing reasonable accommodations as outlined by Federal and State law. We also strive to create an inclusive, safe and respectful environment. By promoting awareness, knowledge and equity, we aspire to impact positive change within individuals and the campus community.

To be registered with CDS and obtain accommodations at the University of Utah, documentation of a disability must be provided. Please review our specific guidelines for documentation, and our student handbook, at <http://disability.utah.edu>.

The general process for students requesting ADA Accommodations is as follows:

1. Arrange an intake appointment with an advisor at the CDS by calling (801) 581-5020.
2. Complete paperwork during intake appointment - application form, release form, etc.
3. Read the CDS Student Handbook (see <http://disability.utah.edu>).
4. Obtain and provide documentation to your advisor in the CDS (see specific documentation guidelines at <http://disability.utah/documentation.html>).
5. Documentation review by the CDS Case Management Team.
6. Decision made regarding eligibility and specific accommodations.

Plan Ahead! Please start the process early since accommodations cannot be retroactive.

This information is available in alternative format with prior notification.