



Student Accessibility Services Transition Guide—High School vs. College

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Overall Guiding Principle	
Your parents and teachers have much responsibility for your success. You have a right to a high school education and a diploma. The laws under which this is done is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.	You are responsible for your own success or failure. You have an equal opportunity to achieve a college degree. The laws under which this is done are Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Who Initiates Accommodations	
Teachers or other school staff identify you as needing accommodations.	YOU, the student, must identify yourself and present documents to justify specific accommodations.
Parents	
Your parents are responsible for making sure the school is accommodating you appropriately.	Your parents are no longer responsible for making sure you are being accommodated. This is now your responsibility—both to initiate and to make the Student Accessibility Services Office aware if you are not being accommodated.
Confidentiality	
Your disability will be discussed with your parents, teachers, and members of your IEP or 504 Plan. It may also be discussed with the person who diagnoses your disability and specifies accommodations.	Your disability information is covered by FERPA, the federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records. It may not be discussed, even with your parents, without your written permission. Your disability and appropriate accommodations will only be disclosed to your instructors if you give permission.
Feedback On Your Academic Progress	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers give you frequent feedback. • Teachers check your completed homework. • Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance. • Teachers take time to remind you of assignments and due dates. • Teachers remind you of your incomplete work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must ask the instructor for feedback. • Professors may not always check your homework but will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests. • Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need help. • Professors expect you to use the syllabus and know due dates. • Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.
Studying	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings. • You spend 30 hours a week in class and may only spend as little as 0 to 2 hours studying outside of class. • You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed and often re-taught in class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's up to you to read and understand the assigned material; the lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you have done so. • You spend 12 to 16 hours a week in class, but you need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour you are in class. • You are assigned a substantial amount of reading and writing which may not be directly discussed in class.
Tests and Grades	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material. • Makeup tests are often available. • Mastery is seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught. • Standards for grading may be changed, or credit may be given for effort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material which you have to organize. • Makeup testing is not guaranteed. If a makeup test is permitted, you will likely have to take it on a day assigned by your instructor. • Mastery is seen as the ability to apply what you learned to new situations and solve new problems. • Grading standards will not be changed, and credit is not usually given for effort.

Tips for Making the Transition

Attend Every Class

Although class attendance is not required in college, it is a good habit to practice and is essential for staying on task. Additionally, many professors have attendance rules and missing class can often impact your grade.

Be Organized

Come to each class with all required materials, the course textbook, and a binder or folder to store returned assignments and exams. Keeping track of all papers, quizzes, and exams is a great way to keep track of your course grade and to study for future exams.

Network with Your Peers

Always get the e-mail address and phone number of at least one person in each of your classes. In the event that you miss class or need clarification on an assignment, this will ensure that you have the contact information of a classmate.

Get Involved

Join an extracurricular activity or club on campus. This is a way to get involved and meet new people. However, be careful not to overextend yourself with too many activities. Many students make the mistake of underestimating how much time their academics will occupy and take on too many additional activities. As a new college student, it might be wise to join one extracurricular activity and reserve the option to join more if time allows.

Communicate with Your Instructors and Advisor

Maintain communication with your course instructors and advisor. If you are having difficulty with an assignment, don't hesitate to schedule an appointment during your professor's office hours. Be sure to schedule an appointment with your advisor to discuss degree requirements and other considerations prior to enrolling in courses each semester.

Organize Your Time Wisely

Time management is a skill all successful college students must learn to master. Many students become overwhelmed trying to juggle academics, extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, and personal and social life activities. A good preventative strategy to avoid becoming overworked is to devise a schedule before you start taking on tasks. Consider how much time you can reasonably commit to non-academic activities without having them negatively impact your college success.

Utilize Your Resources

Take advantage of the many offices and services at FHSU that are committed to helping you achieve academic and personal success during your college experience. You can learn more about available services by visiting the Student Resources page on the FHSU website: <https://www.fhsu.edu/student-affairs/students>