
Information for Students With Learning Disabilities

Many colleges and universities offer programs and services to meet the special needs of students with identified physical or cognitive disabilities. These programs include academic advising, tutorial support, special accommodations, etc. which may be necessary for students to function adequately in classes.

Applying to College as a Student with Learning Disabilities

Students on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) should begin to discuss the level of support they will need in college with their special education case manager and their counselor during the junior year, as well as to determine when the student should disclose this information. While some students may want to submit their IEPs and supporting documentation along with the application, others may choose to wait until after the admissions decision has been rendered. *Please note: Testing to document a disability must be done within three years of graduation.*

Students with documented hearing, learning, physical, or visual disabilities which might impact their performance on college entrance exams can request special accommodations for these exams. These accommodations, which are available to eligible students only, can include additional time to take the tests, large type test booklets and answer sheets, a sign-language interpreter, a reader, etc. Eligibility guidelines are available from the CCHS Special Education Department. In order to qualify for college entrance testing modifications, a student must have been on an IEP or 504 Plan at least four school months prior to the test date and must also be currently receiving those modifications in school.

The decision about whether to offer modifications/accommodations and/or which modifications/accommodations are offered rest with the colleges.

Services Available to Students with Learning Disabilities

As students explore post-secondary options, they should also research the availability of special services such as tutorial support, academic advising, reduced course loads, and organizational and study skills programs. These services can range from meeting minimal requirements of the Federal law (Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act) to the services of a full-time learning disabilities director, specially-trained tutors, and a full range of accommodations.

Waiving of Foreign Language Requirements

Many colleges which require foreign language for admission are willing to waive this requirement for students with a documented learning disability if the disability interferes with the student's capacity to learn a foreign language. These colleges often require evidence of this disability in the form of cognitive assessments. These assessments are typically part of the testing package used to determine eligibility for special education services at CCHS.

Colleges that waive the foreign language requirement, usually require other appropriate course work during high school in lieu of the years of language study. Colleges who waive foreign language for admissions purposes may still require the study of a foreign language during the college years to meet college graduation requirements. Students should check with each college to be clear about these requirements.

Sending Special Education Support Materials to Colleges

The student is responsible for mailing special education materials to colleges. Please contact the Special Education case manager **FIFTEEN DAYS** in advance of any deadlines to obtain a copy of any necessary documentation.