

# Questions that Students with Special Needs Should Ask and Questions that the College Might Ask

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## General

1. Is there a specific office that serves students with disabilities?
2. Do full-time professionals staff the program?
3. What documentation must I bring to document my disability? How current must it be?
4. Who decides if I qualify for accommodations?
5. Who should or would be notified of my disability?
6. Who is responsible for arranging accommodations?
7. What is the advisement system for students with special needs? Will advisers help with course selection and course load options?
8. What are my responsibilities for making sure I receive the services I need?
9. Is there an active support group on campus for students with disabilities?
10. How well-informed are faculty members regarding students with disabilities? Are they willing to work with these students?
11. Are the classrooms/buildings physically accessible?
12. How many accessible dorm rooms are available?

## Specific

1. What accommodations are available—for example, tape recorders, taped texts, note takers?
2. What is the procedure for getting textbooks recorded on tape?
3. Are waivers or substitutions granted to students who, because of a disability, cannot pass certain courses such as foreign language or statistics?
4. Does the college provide adaptive equipment for student use?
5. Where do students go to take tests with modifications? How is this service arranged?
6. How is the need for class notes met for qualifying students? Are note takers trained? Paid?
7. Does the college provide printed materials in alternative format?
8. What kind of tutoring is available? Are the tutors peers or staff? Is tutoring available in all subjects? Is there a limit to the amount of tutoring I may receive? Is there a fee?
9. Does the college offer courses or workshops in study skills or writing skills?
10. Is adaptive software such as voice recognition software or writing support software available on campus? Is training in the use of the software provided?
11. May students with disabilities take a reduced course load and still be considered full-time? Will this affect their financial aid?

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## Questions the college might ask you

The college disabilities office may ask these questions. Write down your answers and review them with someone familiar with your academic strengths and difficulties, such as your IEP manager, a teacher, or a school counselor, before you visit the campus.

1. What is your disability?
2. How does it interfere with your learning?
3. How comfortable are you in discussing your disability with teachers?
4. What are your academic strengths?
5. In what areas do you have difficulty or problems?
6. What accommodations will you need?
7. What kind of support services have you used in high school?
8. Which were the most helpful?
9. Are you willing to work harder than other students to be successful in college?
10. How do you manage your time?

*Source: College Counseling Sourcebook, 4th Edition*