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| **Georgia Highlands College**  **Student Support Services** |  |

**Transitioning to College for Students with Disabilities**

* **Academic Preparation**
  + All accommodations at the college level are designed to ensure equal access.
  + Adults with disabilities have the right to equal access (ADA, Section 504 & 508 Compliance); success is up to the student.
  + There are no course modifications in college.

* **Disability Documentation**
  + IEP’s and 504 Plans **end** with high school graduation. Both provide helpful background information, but do not meet the documentation standard for college accommodations.
  + The Regents Centers for Learning Disorders (RCLD) sets the standard for post-secondary documentation requirements to determine eligibility for appropriate academic accommodations.  The RCLD is part of the Board of Regents, the governing body for all public colleges and universities in Georgia.
  + **Basic Documentation Requirements include:**
    - a current evaluation (less than 36 months old) of the disability from a qualified professional (licensed to diagnose the condition by Georgia law);
    - specific symptoms that are present;
    - evidence that these symptoms are associated with substantial impairment in a major life activity;
    - a detailed description of current substantial limitation in the academic environment;
    - specific requests for accommodations need to be linked to the student's current functional limitations, and the rationale for each recommendation clearly stated;

Additional documentation information can be found at the BOR website Academic Affairs Handbook, Section 3, Appendix D. <http://www.usg.edu/academic_affairs_handbook/>

* **Self-Advocacy**
* Students are required to self-identify and request accommodations. Referrals cannot be accepted from parents, college personnel, or other agencies.
* It is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with their course professors, to discuss and arrange approved accommodations.

Georgia Highlands College [www.highlands.edu](http://www.highlands.edu) updated spring 2017