

DSS FAQ for Parents

How do the responsibilities of working with students with disabilities at colleges and universities differ from those of high schools?

The responsibilities towards students with disabilities in Higher Education are very different from those of high schools. High schools are required under IDEA to identify the educational needs of students with disabilities and provide a free and appropriate education.

This responsibility is not required of Higher Education institutions. Colleges and universities are required to provide appropriate academic accommodations to ensure that a student with a disability is not discriminated against.

Accommodations are designed to remove barriers and provide equal access to courses, programs and activities. Additionally, the student is responsible for disclosing his or her disability to the institution.

Does the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) apply to higher education?

The IDEA is a law administered by the Office of Special Education Programs in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the U.S. Department of Education. This law does not apply to higher education.

****** Change this: What is the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 on higher education?**

The Americans with Disabilities Act impacts the whole institution including activities, facilities, programs and employment. With regard to academics, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires higher education institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students. For more information please go to www.ada.gov

Does a student have to inform Concordia University, Nebraska that he or she has a disability?

A student with a disability does not have to disclose his or her disability to Concordia University, Nebraska. Disclosure of a disability is on a voluntary basis. DSS does not seek students out. However, a student will not receive accommodations unless he or she discloses this information and provides supporting documentation.

What are the responsibilities of a student with a disability if he or she would like to receive accommodations?

A student with a disability is responsible for requesting accommodations through Disability Support Services (DSS). DSS will not seek students out. A student with a disability is also responsible for providing acceptable documentation of his or her disability. A student with a disability, who has been approved for accommodations, may choose to use or not use these accommodations.

Can I request accommodations for my child?

All requests for accommodations must come directly from the student.

Can I speak with DSS regarding my child's situation?

As a young adult, the student may choose to have information about his or her case discussed with his or her parent(s) through signing a release. The release cannot be a blanket release for the student's entire college career.

Since the student is now in charge of his or her educational planning, what are some self-advocacy skills he or she should develop?

DSS strongly encourages students to develop the following self-advocacy skills:

- A student should be able to articulate what his or her disability is.
- A student should be able to describe how the disability limits his or her functioning (functional limitations). A student should also be able to express some ways that he or she could be accommodated.
- A student should provide acceptable documentation to DSS and request accommodations.
- A student should learn to work collaboratively with professors to ensure his or her access with the accommodations.
- A student should be able to identify if his or her accommodations are not being met.

Does Disability Support Services provide tutorial services?

DSS does not provide tutorial services. There are subject tutoring and writing support services provided free of charge to all Concordia students through the Academic Resource Center. Any additional tutoring must be obtained and funded privately.

Is there a charge for receiving accommodations from Disability Support Services?

There is no charge for receiving accommodations from Disability Support Services.