



Universities and colleges have offices that offer support and ensure accessibility in relation to campuses, classes, programming, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These offices provide accommodations to individuals with disabilities based on need, while also working with faculty to give them suggestions and teaching guidelines.

What services or resources does this agency provide?

These offices consult with students and arrange for appropriate and necessary accommodations. These are dependent on student need and may vary across universities. Some examples of modifications or accommodations that a university might provide include test taking areas with minimal distractions, visual accommodations (large print, braille), extended test time, peer note takers, textbooks in alternative format, readers and/or scribes, ear amplification systems, sign language interpreter, accessible housing, accessible parking, referrals for tutors, and more.

What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

All universities and colleges that accept federal funding must comply with ADA and Section 504 guidelines.



Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

There is no student cost associated with receiving modifications from a disability services office at a university. Accommodations are paid for by the university.

For which students might this agency be appropriate?

Disability services at a university are appropriate for students with any disability who might require extra accommodations to access their classes and campus.

Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?

After enrolling at an academic institution, students can seek this support if they have a disability that may impede their ability to fully access class, campus, content, or activities.



What is the referral process? What documents are needed?

Students must submit a request for supports in addition to providing documentation for their disability. Each university has their own guidelines as to how they define disability and what accommodations they will provide for certain disabilities. Check with your college to learn more about the application process and documents required to receive accommodations.

What is the family's responsibility?

The family's responsibility is to consider where their child's needs will be best served when considering postsecondary education for their student. The family must also be able to provide documentation of disability according to the university's guidelines.

What is the student's responsibility?

The student will take responsibility for working with the Disability Services office on campus, however, some students may require assistance from family or a teacher. Students should follow through on all accommodations and services provided by the office.

What is the responsibility of an educator?

Teachers should let families know that most universities and colleges do provide accommodations to make classes and mobility around campus more accessible. Identifying the types of documentation that will be necessary and arranging for access to those documents may also be discussed.

Where can I learn more?

Visit: <http://transitiontn.org/pse-videos/> to watch the "College Disability & Access Center" video to learn more about available services.

How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?

- Disability services offices should be contacted if the student is interested in pursuing education after high school. As the student is learning more about universities, they should reach out to the disability services office at each institution they might attend to learn about the accommodations, supports, and services available to students with disabilities.
- Students and parents can reach out to disability services offices to seek information on what types of documentation they will need to provide to receive services from the office.
- Teachers can encourage parents and the student to brainstorm what accommodations and services the student needed in the past, and what they might need in the future for postsecondary success.

What questions should I ask of my campus disability office?

- How is disability defined at your university?
- Is my disability kept confidential?
- Do I have to reapply to receive accommodations every year?
- Are there tutoring services available through the office? If so, is tutoring free?
- What do I do if I am denied the accommodations I need?