

Accessibility Services – St Petersburg College High School Students Taking College Level Courses Q&A

1. My high schooler is taking classes at St. Petersburg College and has a current IEP or 504 plan. Who is working with him/her/them on IEP goals, service delivery time, support and services or informing professors of accommodations for IEP's or 504 plans?

Please work with your student's high school IEP Team/ 504 Team to sign a Release of Information form so that the college professors will have access to your child's accommodations. Bring a copy of the IEP or 504 evaluation/plan or have the case manager/ school counselor send a copy of the IEP/ 504 evaluation/plan to the Accessibility Services Office. Make sure the IEP team discusses how services including direct instruction on IEP goals and transition services will be implemented for your child at the home high school. Goals and services will not be implemented by college personnel, nor will they be provided in college level courses. Accommodations will be determined at an Interactive Process meeting with St. Petersburg College's Accessibility Office and professors will be informed of those accommodations.

2. My child is still a minor and has not graduated high school. Doesn't the college or university have to follow the IEP and 504 plan exactly?

No. Even though your student still has protections and services under an IEP or 504 plan within the high school environment, your student while in post-secondary college courses is considered a college student. To receive college credit for a course in addition to high school credit, your student is required to follow the same criteria and guidelines as all college students. If they do not, they would only be eligible for high school credit. There may be accommodations, supports and services that are very appropriate towards access in a high school course but may not be in a college level course. Different criteria are considered for college level accommodations. Direct services, supports and instruction dictated by an IEP or 504 plan must be provided by the home high school at the home high school. College Accessibility staff will participate when invited by the home high school in the 504 or IEP Team meetings to ensure all parties understand what accommodations have been determined reasonable for college coursework.

3. I have signed the Release of Information with my student's case manager or counselor, do the accommodations just go to the St. Petersburg College professors now?

No. The next step is to register with the Accessibility Office and ensure the Accessibility Coordinator has received a copy of the IEP or 504 evaluation/plan. Your child must then meet with the Accessibility Coordinator for the Interactive Process to review all the documentation, determine if additional documentation is needed and discuss what accommodations or supports may be appropriate in the college setting for access. Once your child has registered with Accessibility Services, an Accessibility Coordinator will contact your student to arrange a meeting. Here are the steps to register...

- Go to the main St Petersburg College Page.
- Scroll to the very bottom of the page and click on Accessibility Services.
- Once on the Accessibility Services page, choose the blue tab that states "Register with Accessibility Services."
- Fill out completely and submit. An Accessibility Coordinator will then contact you.

4. My high schooler is a minor, why is the Accessibility Coordinator meeting with him/her/ them and not the parents?

The student may bring whomever they want to the Accessibility Services Interactive Process meeting, including parents or advocates. However, as stated above, your child is now taking college level courses with St. Petersburg College and is considered a college student. As part of that responsibility, they must demonstrate their own agency including advocating for his/her/ their own accommodations and needs. One of the forms we have them sign is an agreement that they understand that no other person including a parent or advocate may speak on his/her/their behalf as well as a FERPA form giving the Accessibility Office permission to speak with certain identified individuals while the student is a St. Petersburg College student.

5. My child is struggling with an individual professor or course. How do I schedule a meeting with that professor, dean, or leadership team member to discuss?

Your student is considered a college level student and must demonstrate his/her/their own agency. College courses are very different from high school classes. There is intense expectation and rigor. If your child is struggling or has concerns, he/ she/ they must communicate to professors, deans, or leadership team members. **Parents should not.** Encourage your child to communicate in a respectful manner with professors via the MyCourses email account and set an appointment with the professor during set office hours. Encourage your child to contact the Accessibility Office to discuss concerns and work on a reevaluation or action plan to move forward. Encourage your child to take advantage of the campus resources like tutors to assist with course expectations.

6. Who do we contact if we have more questions about accessibility at the college level for my high school student?

Coordinator at the campus your student will be taking his or her classes, please see list of Accessibility Services Contacts at:

<https://www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-support-resources/accessibility-services/accessibility-services-contacts>