**Paying for College: Students with Disabilities**

Understand the difference between modifications and accommodations:

**Modifications in K-12 Education**

* Modifications are made to assignments and the curriculum to meet the Free Access to Publication Education, also known as FAPE, requirements in secondary education.
* Typically, modifications are permitted, including but not limited to a reduced number of questions on assignments, a reduced number of topics covered in class, or allowing for the use of a word list and/or math formulas on exams to accommodate students with disabilities.

**Accommodations in Higher Education**

* Accommodations are made on college campuses to create accessibility for students with disabilities, but adjustments aren’t made to the course requirements or the curriculum.
* Examples of accommodations include specialized tutoring, recorded/audiobooks, class notetakers, preferential seating, and lecture notes or study guides to prepare for exams are accommodations that some colleges allow.

**FERPA Form — Student Information Release Form**

*“FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level.”*

– U.S. Department of Education

* The student needs to request the FERPA form. A parent cannot.
  + The student must agree to who is listed as the recipient in order to release records if it’s an individual other than the student with access to records.
* This can be beneficial if the student is deferring enrollment or taking a gap year.
  + Military service, ecclesiastical mission, humanitarian service, etc., are all reasons students participate in gap years before attending higher education.
* Explore the college website or visit the Disability Resource Center at the institution for more information.

**Resources**

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