

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 Public 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.

Resources

- Explore the college website or visit the Disability Resource Center at the institution for more information.