

Access-Ability Services

Rm. D205; Phone:(718) 368-5175; Fax: (718) 368-4782

Glossary of Terms

➤ *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*: a law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.

➤ *Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973*: designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of a disability in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

➤ *Qualified Individual with a Disability* (as it relates to postsecondary education): a person who meets both the disability criteria of Section 504/the ADA and the college's standard for admission or participation in programs and/or activities.

➤ *Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*: a law that ensures all children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education. This law does not apply to postsecondary institutions.

➤ *Individualized Education Program/Plan (IEP)*: An annual document that describes what special education and services a student received while attending public school.

➤ *Accommodations*: Modifications made to a school/college's academic requirements that are necessary to ensure equal access to qualified individuals.

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Transitioning from high school to postsecondary is a difficult and stressful process for most individuals. For individuals with disabilities, it can be a daunting task. Some commonly asked questions are: Is college the same as high school? Where do I begin? What do I need? Whom should I speak to? Am I still under IDEA? Can my parents still meet with the school on my behalf? This fact sheet will assist in answering some of those questions. For additional information, please contact **Access-Ability Services** at **(718) 368-5175**.

Differences between High School & College

Am I still covered under IDEA and my IEP/504 Plan?

No. When you were in high school, you were covered under a law called IDEA which provided a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Under IDEA, it was the school's responsibility to seek you out and provide services. IDEA does not apply to colleges and universities. They are governed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and other pertinent state laws. The responsibilities of colleges and universities are significantly different from those of your high school.

Also, you (not your parents) will have responsibilities as a college student that you did not have as a high school student. Section 504 and ADA make it your responsibility to request services and provide appropriate documentation of your disability. You must be actively involved in the process. The responsibility now rests on you.

Will I get the same accommodations as high school?

Not necessarily, as your high school IEP/504 plan does not carry over to college. Access-Ability Services will determine what accommodations you will receive after your documentation has been reviewed and information has been gathered from you.

Receiving Services at KCC

Where do I go for services?

To receive accommodations and/or services at KCC, you must self-identify to Access-Ability Services, Room D-205. It is your responsibility to talk to us about your needs.

When should I request services?

Although you may request accommodations at any time, it is recommended that you make an appointment with Access-Ability Services as soon as possible after admission to KCC. Access-Ability Services is committed to working with you and providing you with reasonable accommodations and services. However, arranging accommodations and services takes time. Some academic adjustments may take more time to provide than others. You should follow Access-Ability Services' procedures to ensure that there is enough time to review your request and provide appropriate accommodations.

What kind of documentation do I need to provide?

Colleges may set reasonable standards for documentation. Some colleges may require more documentation than others, but all colleges will require you to provide documentation prepared by an appropriate qualified professional. You will be responsible for any fees associated with obtaining required documentation. Essential elements of documentation include the following:

- A diagnostic statement identifying the disability.
- A description of the diagnostic methodology used.
- A description of the current functional limitations as it relates to academic settings.
- A description of the expected progression or stability of the disability. □
- A description of current and past accommodations, services and/or medications.
- Recommendations for accommodations, adaptive devices, assistive services, compensatory strategies and/or collateral support services. □

Although an IEP or Section 504 plan may help identify services that have been effective for you in the past, it generally is not sufficient documentation for college. There is a difference in the laws and college education presents different demands than high school education. What you need to meet these new demands may be different.

Receiving Accommodations at KCC

What accommodations/modifications are provided?

Reasonable accommodations may include, among others, extended time on tests, books in alternate format, sign language interpreters, readers, note takers, scribes and assistive technology. Be aware that an accommodation cannot be provided if it creates a fundamental alteration of the coursework.

What accommodations are not provided?

Accommodations that are of a personal nature or will impact the essential requirements of the individual program of study will not be provided. These include, but are not limited to, personal care attendants, private tutors and waiving of required coursework.

Other Considerations

Will I be required to follow the same requirements as others?

Yes. KCC is not obligated or able to change requirements that are essential to its programs. Having a disability that makes specific course content difficult does not mean that such courses will be automatically waived for you. In some cases, course substitutions may be accepted for students with disabilities. This should be discussed and determined when you enter KCC.

What will I need to do to earn a college degree?

You will need to meet the requirements of your program of study as mandated by Kingsborough Community College and by the City University of New York.

Resources / References

Association of Higher Education & Disability

Voice / Text: (704) 947-7779

Email: ahead@ahead.org

Website: www.ahead.org

HEATH Resource Center of George

Washington University

Voice: (202) 973-0904 / (800) 544-3284

TTY: (202) 973-0904 / (800) 544-3284

Email: askheath@gwu.edu

Website: www.heath.gwu.edu

U.S. Department of Education

Office for Civil Rights

Voice: (800) 421-3481

TTY: (877) 521-2172

Email: OCR@ed.gov

Website: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html

New York State Education Department

Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID)

Phone: 1-800-222-JOBS(5627)

Email: vesidadm@mail.nysed.gov

Website: <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/>