Differences Between High School and College

After High School, the Rules Change

Laws and Responsibilities

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| High School | Postsecondary |
| Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)  Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). | Section 504 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - Accessibility and reasonable accommodations. |
| Covers students until completion of high school graduation requirements. | Covers students with disabilities regardless of age; schools may not discriminate in recruitment, admission, or after admission, solely on the basis of a disability. |
| School attendance is mandatory | Students decide to attend and will pay tuition. |
| Districts are required to identify students with disabilities through assessment & the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. | Students are responsible for revealing and providing current documentation of a disability. They must be self advocates. |
| Students receive special education and related servic­es to address needs based on an identified disability. | Formal special education services are not available. |
| Services include individually designed instruction, modification, and accommodations based on the IEP. | Reasonable accommodations may be made to provide equal access and participation. |
| Individual student’s needs, based on the IEP, may be addressed by program support or school personnel. | No formal program support for school personnel is provided. |
| Progress toward IEP goals is monitored and commu­nicated to the parents and/or the student. | Students are required to monitor their own progress and communicate their needs to instructors. |
| Schools assist in connecting the student with com­munity support agencies to support transition needs as identified in the IEP. | Students are responsible for making their own connections with community support agencies. |