Fox Valley Technical College-Disability Services
High School vs. College

What is the biggest difference between high school and college?

High schools provide accommodation in accordance with IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), whereas the college level follows the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). IDEA ensures **success** of students. The ADA provides students with **access** for coursework, materials and facilities.

IDEA

- School districts are required to evaluate and identify students with disabilities and determine if Special Education services are needed.
- Individually designed instruction is provided. Modifications and accommodations are provided based on the IEP or 504 plan.
- School attendance is mandatory.
- School staff discuss progress with parents or legal guardians.
- Teachers may approach students if they believe extra assistance is needed. Paraprofessional or team-teaching supports may be available for classes.
- Teachers structure class time to include work time in class and.

ADA

- Students are responsible for disclosing and providing necessary documentation for proof of disability related need.
- Students request specific, reasonable accommodations.
- Students choose to attend classes and pay costs such as tuition, books and additional supplies
- Instructors follow a syllabus. This is the outline of classes including general expectations for assignments, attendance, communication, tests and grades.
- Students are considered adults and have privacy and confidentiality protections. College communications go through the student.

Roles and responsibilities

Students can explore college credit in a variety of ways, including Dual Credit/Enrollment, Start College Now and Academies. Dual Credit/Enrollment classes are taken at the student's high school while Start College Now and Academy classes are taken at an FVTC campus and are taught by an FVTC instructor. The roles and responsibilities for Dual Credit students are listed below. Start College Now and Academy students follow the Disability Services office accommodation process.

Students:

- complete the FVTC enrollment process
- work with high school staff (or parent) to request accommodations
- complete assigned work with designated accommodations

High School Case Manager

- make students aware of the FVTC accommodation process
- help student connect with the Disability Services office at FVTC
- assist with accommodation implementation at the high school

High School Class Instructor (Dual Credit only)

- assist student with FVTC enrollment process
- implement the provided accommodation plan
- work with the high school case manager as needed

FVTC- Disability Services

- receive communication from student, high school case manager or parent
- review documentation and develop the accommodation plan
- share accommodation plan with the high school (Dual Credit)

College Level Accommodations

Commonly approved accommodations at the college level may include:

- extended time on tests
- reduced distraction testing environment
- use of adaptive equipment (specialized computer mouse, keyboard, table, chair etc.)
- preferential seating in the classroom
- access to assistive technology (screen readers, text to speech tools etc.)
- textbooks/class material in an alternative format (ability to use text to speech)
- sign language interpreters

Accommodations that may not be appropriate at the college level:

- retake of tests or retaking to meet a desired grade
- change in contents of a test, unlimited time or change in test format (i.e. reducing multiple choice options, not requiring fill in the blank questions, allowing oral testing etc.)
- change in licensing nor certification requirements or altering a program plan
- extension of deadlines for assignments
- modified attendance for certain programs
- modification of curriculum or course expectations
- team teaching or support in the classroom

Students will be expected to independently navigate online learning and communications tools like MyFVTC (Workday), Blackboard and their college email account.

Students follow the FVTC code of conduct and all institutional college policies and procedures.