

HIGH SCHOOL to USF

My student had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in high school. Will those services automatically transfer to USF?

No. In order to receive accommodations and services at USF, a student must register with Students Accessibility Services (SAS) by submitting a completed Application for Accommodations and Services. Students should also submit any available documentation (medical, school, other provider) that demonstrates the current need for accommodations. Visit the Forms section of usf.edu/sds for more information.

When can my student apply for accommodations?

Current USF students or future students who have been admitted may apply for accommodations at any time. Services are also available to distance learners taking online courses. Students will be notified by email once the application and documentation have been reviewed. It normally takes up to 10 business days to process a new application, but may take longer during busy periods. Services are not retroactive.

Do transcripts or diplomas show that accommodations were used?

No. The privacy of student records, including disability documentation, are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. A Release of Information form must be signed and submitted to SAS before disability-related information will be released to non-University entities, including parents of students over the age of 18.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Our professionals are ready to assist you as needed. Stop by one of our campus offices or contact us at:

TAMPA CAMPUS

4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SVC 1133
Tampa, FL 33620
(813) 974-4309 (Office)
(813) 974-7337 (Fax)
sas-info@usf.edu (General Information)
(813) 974-5704 (Test Center)
sas-exams@usf.edu (Test Center)

ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

140 7th Avenue South, SLC 1203
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 873-4990 or (727) 873-4837 (Office)
stp-sas@usf.edu (General Information)
(727) 873-4837 (Test Center)
stp-sas-exams@usf.edu (Test Center)

SARASOTA-MANATEE CAMPUS

8350 N. Tamiami Trail, C107
Sarasota, FL 34243
(941) 359-4714 (Office/Test Center)
sas-sar@usf.edu (Office/Test Center)

**STUDENT
ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

usf.edu/sas

PARENT'S GUIDE

**Transitioning Students with Disabilities
from High School to College**



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA

Student Success

Student Accessibility Services

University Life

Although the transition from high school to college is a challenge for any student, college life poses unique challenges for students with disabilities. These students have often received varying levels of support throughout high school, but are now expected to navigate the university on their own. In order to be successful at the post-secondary level, students with disabilities must be able to advocate for their needs, take on responsibility for their learning, and understand the requirements that they must meet in order to be successful in their educational endeavors.

As parents, it is important to understand the challenges that your student faces with the transition and to support them throughout the process. The best way to help your student succeed is to help him/her understand his/her disability, as well as his/her strengths, interests, and preferences. In addition, encourage your student to work closely with faculty, staff, and administrators who are here to help.



Preparing Your Student for Success

- Work with your student's high school teacher and support staff to understand the transition process and the differences between services in high school and in college.
- Ensure that your student has the appropriate and required testing that a college requires to document a disability. Encourage the high school transition team to conduct updated testing prior to the student's graduating from high school.
- Learn the process for requesting accommodations on entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT. If accommodations are needed, documentation must meet the guidelines for testing services.
- Contact the admission office and request information that describes the admissions process for students with disabilities. Often, students with disabilities must meet standard admission criteria.
- Work with your student to develop self-advocacy skills. A student should be able to talk about his/her strengths and difficulties in a clear manner and have an in-depth understanding of needs.
- Contact USF's Student Accessibility Services office (SAS) and ask what services are available.
- Remember that it is your student's responsibility to notify the college of a disability and the need for accommodations. It is also important to note that having received services in high school does not guarantee eligibility for services in college.

- ✓ Get copies of disability documentation from the high school transition team.
- ✓ Carefully research what forms and documentation are needed to apply for accommodations.
- ✓ Submit accommodations paperwork early so that services are in place when classes begin.
- ✓ Work with your student to build self-advocacy skills.

Student Expectations

Students should become proficient at realistically assessing and understanding their weaknesses, strengths, needs, and preferences. Students who become experts at communicating this information to others, including instructors and service providers, are typically more successful.

Building the following self-advocacy skills can contribute to success in college:

- Developing effective time management and scheduling skills.
- Working with academic advisors to determine an appropriate course load.
- Knowing attendance policies and understanding the consequences of not attending class.
- Seeking assistance from SAS to manage disabilities and coursework.