

**Disability Services
Parents & Guardians**

We understand that sending your daughter or son off to college can be a stressful experience, especially when there’s a disability involved. Hopefully, these resources can help you breathe a little easier.

Accommodations: High School vs. College

Below is a comparison chart of how accommodations, services, and rules differ from high school compared to college. As your child is likely now at least 18 years old, she or he is legally considered an adult, and will be treated as such.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) permits reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, as the law requires students with disabilities have equal access to our campus, programs, and activities, but **success cannot be guaranteed.**

K - 12	Higher Education
Compliant with the IDEA	Compliant with the ADA
Student records are accessible to parents	Student records are only accessible to parents with students written consent
Focus is on student success	Focus is on student access
Modification of instruction and curriculum are commonly provided	Program requirements cannot be modified; students are responsible for meeting course requirements

Schools and parents identify student disability and accommodations	Students must self-identify disability to receive accommodations
Services arranged by parents and school district	Services arranged by student and coordinator
Parents and teachers guide and intervene on student's behalf, consistently monitor student progress	Students responsible for managing their own time, skill-building, and monitoring their own progress
School district provides disability assessments	Student responsible for disability assessments
IEP and 504 plans determines services students receive	Interactive process with student and coordinator determines services
Students may not be held to same code of conduct	All students are held to the same code of conduct
Students told what their responsibilities are and corrected if their behavior is out of line	Students must take responsibility for their actions and accept the consequences of their decisions

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Parents may to contact the Coordinator if you are concerned about your student. We cannot share information about students, but we can listen to your concerns and provide guidance and resources.

For more information on student rights, and parents' rights under FERPA, please see U.S. Department of Education's [Parent Guides to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#).

Transitioning to College

If you are a parent, college counselor, or high school counselor, feel free to review the following resources on helping your student make the transition from high school (or homeschool) to college.

Elizabeth Cohen Hamblet, LD Advisor

Ms. Hamblet is a professional learning disabilities consultant and speaker who offers tips, techniques, and printable templates to help with time management, reading, and additional information on disability in higher education on her [website](#).

Open Letter to Parents

Jane Jarrow is the mother of a disabled daughter and a well-known name in the field of disability in higher education. Read her [open letter to parents of students with disabilities about to enter college](#).

PACER

The [National Parent Center on Transition and Employment](#) offers a guide for parents to help their students take over the primary role of advocating for their own needs. Some small steps include having students send emails, fill out applications, and make phone calls on their own, allowing them to speak for themselves when meeting with staff and faculty, and encouraging them to do their own research instead of having their hands held.

Campus Resources and Information

We hope parents will start encouraging the independence, curiosity, and self-advocacy in their students! College can be a confusing, stressful time, but it can also be a time of growth and exploration.

Students can lay in bed all day and avoid studying, or they can go learn new things, make new friends, and prepare themselves for a fulfilling career. We can't make them do either, but we'll encourage them to choose the latter, and we hope you will, too. To help, we have a variety of free resources on campus available to students.

Academic Advising

Each student is assigned an academic advisor depending on their program/major of choice. [Advisors](#) help your student register for the right classes to meet program requirements. They also monitor student progress and receive alerts when students are failing courses.

Career Services

This is where we really need your help, parents! It is never too early to encourage students to start using [career services](#). They can help students with resume and cover letters, practicing interviews, finding internships or part-time jobs, and they host a career fair each semester that brings prospective employers from all over the country to campus. Many of these employers are Montana Tech sponsors or alumni, and are eager to hire our students.

Counseling Services

Students can download [Mantra Health](#) for self-guided wellness courses in stress reduction, navigating difficult situations, building healthy relationships, problem-solving, or access 24/7 crisis support. If the situation is serious, students can make consistent appointments with our [campus therapist](#).

Clubs & Activities

Nothing eases the transition to college more than making friends. We have a number of clubs and professional organizations students can join. See our [list of clubs](#) and encourage your daughter or son to join one!

Financial Aid

Let's face it, college is expensive. Our [Financial Aid](#) office will work with students to make their path to a successful future affordable.

Fitness Center

Inside the HPER is our [campus gym](#) that's equipped with three-stories of strength training and cardio equipment. There are many benefits to regular physical activity, including [strengthening bones and muscles](#), [reduce risk of disease](#), [boosts energy and sleep quality](#), and [reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety](#). And the best part is there's no mean gym instructor telling you what to do, nor is anyone judging you.

Health Center

The nurses at our campus [medical clinic](#) can diagnosis and treat ailments such as cold, flu, cuts, and scraps, as well as refer students to local specialists, administer vaccinations and prescribe medications.

Housing & Dining

Students have got to eat, and they've got to have somewhere to sleep, too! Visit our [Housing and Dining Services](#) for information on residence halls, campus apartments, housing rates, exemptions, and meal plans.

Testing Center

Students with testing accommodations can choose to take their exams in one of the [Testing Center's](#) private testing rooms. Appointments must be made by either the student or their instructor at least two days in advance.

CLEP

Want to save money on tuition? Encourage your child to consider a [CLEP](#) exam for subjects she or he already knows! We even proctor this exam at our [Testing Center](#). The CLEP exam allows students to test out of introductory courses for a modest fee. Courses students can test out of include Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, College Algebra, Precalculus, and Principles of Marketing.

DSST

Similar to CLEP, students can take this exam to gain college credit and save money on tuition. DSST offers course that CLEP does not, such as Business Ethics, Technical Writing, Fundamentals of Cybersecurity, General Anthropology, Introduction to Geology, Principles of Statistics, Principles of Public Speaking, and Introduction to Business. We do not proctor the DSST at this time, but scores may be submitted to Enrollment Services for evaluation upon admission. [Find a DSST Certified Testing Center](#).

TRIO Student Support Services

[TRIO SSS STEM](#) is a government-funded program that students with disabilities may be eligible for. They offer additional services such as tutoring, academic success coaching, financial literacy help, time management and organizational skill building, and goal-setting.

Tutoring

Our [Tutoring Center](#) employs academic coaches who can help students learn the skills they need to succeed in college, such as study skills, time management, and note-taking. We have drop-in tutoring times for our staple courses (math, physics, calculus, chemistry, and writing), and, for a more personalized experience, students can make weekly one-on-one tutoring appointments for the subjects they're struggling in.