



Patrick Henry Community College
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disAbility Resources
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Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

If a student has an IEP/504 plan in high school will the same accommodations and services be provided in college?

The laws governing accommodations for students with disabilities are different in college than in K-12. In some cases, the accommodations that students receive in high school may be the same, but some accommodations may not be reasonable and appropriate at the college level. Information about these differences can be found on [Differences Between High School and College](#).

How does the college know that a student needs accommodations? Does DisAbility Resources office seek students out to provide services?

It is the student's responsibility to self-identify and request accommodations by registering with disAbility Resources. Under the ADA and Section 504 students have a right to confidentiality and non-disclosure. When students arrive at college, there is no record of that student having a disability. The student must apply for accommodations and provide the necessary disability documentation as explained under [PHCC Procedures for Requesting and Accessing Accommodations](#).

How do students request accommodations?

Once a student is admitted to PHCC, the student should contact disAbility Resources to schedule a time to meet with the disAbility Resources Counselor (as in [PHCC Procedures for Requesting and Accessing Accommodations](#)).

What types of accommodations are provided at PHCC

Accommodations are determined on a case by case basis during the assessment (intake) appointment, at which time the disAbility Resources Counselor will consider the disability documentation, the student's self-report and the classes and activities in which the student is participating. Accommodations ensure that a student with disabilities has equal access to programs and classes. An accommodation will not be approved if it causes a fundamental

alteration to the essential elements of a course or program. Please see [Accommodations and Services Available to PHCC Students with Disabilities](#).

What documentation do you require?

Disability documentation, completed by a qualified professional, establishing the existence of a disability and providing evidence of a substantial limitation in one or more major life activities. The documentation may include suggestions of reasonable accommodations in a college environment. Please see [PHCC Guidelines for Documenting a Disability](#).

May a parent apply for accommodations on behalf of the student?

All requests for accommodations must come directly from the student. disAbility Resources communicates with students through their PHCC email address and will not discuss accommodations or other issues with parents in the absence of the student. This applies to all students, including those who are dual enrolled high school students and whether or not they have reached the age of 18.

Do parents attend intakes and other meetings with the disAbility Resources Counselor?

Students determine if they want to include a parent in the assessment (intake) meeting. The meeting is between the student and counselor with the parent in the role of advocate.

What if I have a FERPA release or Legal Guardianship?

Students with disabilities are expected to take an active role in their education and meet all of the same requirements as any other student, such as meeting with counselors and advisers. Students are required to handle all matters related to disAbility Resources, including requesting accommodations and reporting issues. Parents or legal guardians may have access to certain student records with the consent of the student. To do so, the student must submit a Student Information Release Form (available on the PHCC website www.patrickhenry.edu). However, even if a student signs a release, staff generally only communicates with parents in the presence of the student.

Are students required to request accommodations at the beginning of the semester? What if the student wants to try taking classes without accommodations? Is there a deadline for making the request?

Students may request accommodations any time during the semester, however disAbility Resources strongly encourages students to request accommodations before classes begin. Once accommodations have been approved, students have the option of using them as needed. Accommodations are not retroactive. If a student does not request accommodations, or chooses not to use approved accommodations, the student will not be permitted to re-submit classwork, tests, quizzes or homework completed without accommodations.

How will the professors know that the student is receiving accommodations?

During the assessment (intake) meeting, the disAbility Resources Counselor will generate a Faculty Accommodations Form (FAF). The FAF is given to the student to provide to instructors or e-mailed directly instructors for distance-learning courses.

In high school, teachers kept me informed of how my son or daughter was doing. Will a professor contact me if my student is having difficulties in class?

In college, students are responsible for seeking assistance if they are having problems. Parents will not be contacted regarding grades or any other academic issues. Parents may refer to their student with any questions regarding academic progress.

What if the student has questions about classes, instructors, homework and new friends?

The disAbility Resources Counselor is also an academic advisor. Students is encouraged to direct questions about classes, instructors, homework, etc. to the disAbility Resources Counselor or any of the other counselors available on campus. PHCC has many other services and supports such as Student Support Services, Student Success Center, Writing Center/Math Lab, library, bookstore, computer labs, etc. Students starting at PHCC should search our website and check their PHCC student email often to see what activities are available to them throughout the semester. All first-year students at PHCC take SDV 100 College Success Skills course. This class helps students navigate college, both from the academic and social perspective.

If I am concerned for my student's well-being, can I express my concerns to the staff of disAbility Resources?

Yes, when appropriate. It is best to speak with your student first with any concerns you may have. You may report your concern but action cannot be taken without the direct involvement of your student. The only exception to this is a life-threatening situation or one that could cause substantial harm to the student. The appropriate response ensures your student's safety and well-being while still respecting their legal rights as an adult.

How can I help my son or daughter who is struggling in classes even with accommodations?

Ask your student if they are using all of the accommodations granted. Encourage them to go to disAbility Resources to ask for assistance. If accommodations need revising, the student is responsible for requesting any changes and providing documentation to substantiate those changes. Tutoring is also available through the Writing Center, Math Lab, and on-line via Brainfuse.