



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Transitioning from High School to College:
Everything you need to know!

Student Resource Center for ADA Services

850-484-1637

ADA-Services@pensacolastate.edu

Building 6, room 603

Differences between high school & college disability services:

K-12 (IDEA)	College (ADA)
Education is a RIGHT and must be provided in appropriate environments to ALL individuals.	Education is NOT A RIGHT. Students must meet certain admissions criteria and be defined under the ADA as otherwise qualified.
School districts are responsible for identifying students' disabilities.	Students must SELF-IDENTIFY to the Student Resource Center for ADA Services.
School districts must provide free testing, evaluation, and transportation to programs.	Students must provide transportation as well as current and appropriate documentation . If the documentation is insufficient, students may obtain evaluations at their own cost.
School districts develop Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).	No IEPs are developed in college, as there is no special education. IEPs from high school do not apply in college and need not be submitted for services.
School districts are responsible for providing all IEP supports and services.	Students are responsible for activating and using approved services every semester .
Fundamental alterations of programs and curricula are required.	No fundamental alterations are permitted. The essential elements of the course cannot be altered.
Personal services for medical/physical disabilities are required.	No personal services are required.

What do those differences mean as a student?

At the college and university level, we cannot change the fundamental, essential elements of the course, which means

- no reduction in content or amount of work
- no reduction in the length of assignments, number of problems, length of tests
- no extension on the length of most skills tests, such as in nursing or photography
- no separate grading scale
- no change in the reading level, writing requirements
- no extended due dates

At the college and university level, students are independent and responsible for their materials, courses, and assignments, which means

- no one to personally provide guidance about the assignment
- no one to double check that instructions were received, understood, written down
- instructors do not remind students to turn in assignments
- instructors do not remind students of the requirements of the assignment

At the college and university level, students must speak for themselves with faculty and staff.

- The staff in the ADA office can help with how to say it and can be present as support, but students must talk with faculty and staff themselves.
- Parents cannot speak for the student or solve problems for the student.
- Email & Zoom can often be used to communicate. It does not always require in-person conversations.

College is harder than high school.

- 4 college classes \geq 6 high school classes
- Maybe only take one or two classes a semester.
- Plan to study & work 5 - 6 hours on **each class each week.**
- Courses move very quickly – one year is done in one semester or less.
- Most students find they have to work harder to maintain the grades they had in high school.
- Even if assignments are not graded, they are essential to passing the test.
- Instructors expect you to read all the chapters without telling you to do so.

The Awesomeness of Being a College Student

You get to speak for yourself!

You get to decide on your courses!

You get to be YOU!

You are responsible for you!

Math

Math skills are required for most college degrees. For example,

- Vet Tech requires math for skills such as dosing, IVs, and spacing of kennels & animals.
- Nursing requires math for skills such as dosing and IVs.
- Culinary requires math for increasing or reducing the quantity of the recipe.
- Computer programming/science/cybersecurity/cyber forensics require math for various applications and processes.
- Business requires accounting and finance.
- Hospitality and Lodging require accounting, purchasing, and cost control.
- Medical requires math for skills such as dosing, IVs, and bodily function rates.
- Sciences require math for skills such as measuring, timing, and mixing chemicals.

With a diagnosed math disability, students are sometimes able to get a math course substitution. We do not have math waivers, which means you will take at least one math or logic course for your degree.

Even with a math course substitution, students must still be able to do the math required for the degree. There is no math exemption for math required within non-math courses.

Be aware that many students have stated the math substitution courses are as hard or harder than math. Some students have opted to take the math instead of the math substitution.

Checklist for Enrolling at Pensacola State College

APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO PSC.

- Complete your <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/admissions/>.
- Pay the \$30 application fee.
- Applicants who provide an email address when applying online to PSC will receive an immediate email from the College. Once the application fee is paid (online, mail, or in-person), you will receive an acceptance letter.

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID.

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at [FAFSA.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) – PSC Code: 001513
- For assistance filing the FAFSA, contact the [Educational Opportunity Center](#).
- Check the status of your Student Aid Report.
- All high school or GED transcripts must be received and evaluated before financial aid will be awarded.
- Check your personal email and WorkDay accounts frequently for financial aid notifications and award information. Contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) 850.484.1680, if you have questions.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

- Complete the <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/financial-aid/#scholarships-001513>.
- Check your email frequently for award information.

SUBMIT HIGH SCHOOL OR GED TRANSCRIPTS.

- Submit official high school or GED transcripts.
- All high school or GED transcripts must be received before financial aid will be awarded.

SUBMIT TEST SCORES.

- Submit current official test scores (ACT, SAT, or PERT), take appropriate placement tests, or show proof of exemption.
- If you have not taken the ACT, SAT, or PERT, it is strongly encouraged that you take the PERT. This will provide an assessment of your skills in reading, writing, and math. We want to be certain that you are at a college level before you sign up classes. If you are

not quite there, we have review classes (developmental reading, developmental writing, developmental math) to bring your skills up to college level.

MEET WITH THE STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER FOR ADA SERVICES

- Contact ADA Services to set up an appointment to discuss accommodations.
- Complete the online intake form located in the MyPSC apps.
- Students will need to provide documentation of the disability. Documentation must state the diagnosis. An IEP or 504 may work if it states the diagnosis. An evaluation or doctor/therapist statement is preferred.

MEET WITH AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR.

- PSC academic advisors provide students with program planning, course selection, transfer requirements, class registration, and career planning. Visit their website at: pensacolastate.edu/current-students/student-services/advising/ for more information on services and to meet with an advisor.
- ADA Services can assist with advising.

COMPLETE FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE (FTIC) ORIENTATION.

- As a first-time-in-college student, you should complete our Online Orientation, <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/admissions-old/orientation/>.

PAY FOR YOUR CLASSES AND BUY YOUR BOOKS.

- Pay your tuition fees through WorkDay, in the cashier's office, or by mail.
- Rent or purchase textbooks online or at Pensacola or Warrington campuses.

GET YOUR FREE STUDENT ID CARD AND PARKING DECAL.

- Bring a copy of your class schedule, vehicle registration, and photo ID to the Public Safety Department on any campus to get your free ID card and parking decal.