

Can students with disabilities get special accommodations in colleges? That's a great question and the answer is absolutely yes. Now, we're talking about different types of disabilities. We're talking about physical disabilities, and we're talking about learning disabilities, and both can get accommodations through the same office. Typically, most colleges have an office of student disabilities and one of the best ways that I tell parents to find out exactly what a school offers, is to simply pick up the phone and call them and ask. Explain your son or daughter's situation, whatever it is, and ask whether they offer. Ask if there is a separate application, ask if there is a cost involved because each school has different set of rules and accommodations that they can offer. So for example, the university of Arizona has the SALT Program, it's a separate building, it's a separate program, it's actually a separate application that students have to apply and submit documentation that shows their learning disability, for example, so that they can best evaluate what accommodations to give them. They have note-takers, they have tutors and they have all kinds of stuff for learning disabilities. Now other schools have similar programs, but they don't have as many accommodations, so you are gonna want to compare who offers what. And there's actually a book that you can get specifically for learning disabilities, called, and I'm looking at my computer, "The K&W Guide to College Programs and Services for Students with Learning Disabilities or ADHD," it's in the 11th edition already. Again, "The K&W Guide to College Programs and Services for Students with Learning Disabilities or ADHD." And this is a list with almost every college in the country and specifically what they have. Now, in addition to this, a lot of parents want to know whether their child should even say anything about their disability. I am a big proponent of being an advocate, so if a student has a disability and is getting straight A's, the college, it doesn't matter whether or not the student describes the learning disability or not, because the proof is in the pudding, the student is getting good grades. And if the student needs accommodations, the school is not going to look down on the student just because he or she has, say a learning disability. Again, he or she has got the grades. On the flip side is also true. Let's say that the student really struggles in math because of dyscalculia or some other specific math learning disability. Well, I often have that student describe that disability, and the challenges that he or she went through in order to explain that math grade, give it some context. I don't usually do that in the personal statement by the way, but I will take the extra section in the common application or most applications with extra additional information sections, where you can explain things, give some things some context. The colleges want to know about you, they want to make sure that they give you the kinds of support that you can be successful. So use the book, call the office of students disabilities, and get as much information as you can.