

Transitioning from Special Education to San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC)

Making the transition from high school to college is an exciting and important step, and it is natural to have questions along the way. At San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC), the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) team is here to help you succeed by ensuring you understand your rights and responsibilities. If you have a verified disability, you may be eligible for support under laws such as Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as well as Title V regulations. These laws and regulations are designed to provide equal opportunities for students with disabilities. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which guaranteed high school students with disabilities access to free appropriate public education is not applicable in college. To help you navigate this transition smoothly, here are some key things to know:

1. Academic Standards Remain Consistent

College courses and programs maintain their fundamental requirements for all students. While accommodations can provide support, they do not include changes to grading standards or course requirements.

2. Your High School Plans Are a Starting Point

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 504 Plans from high school do not apply or transfer to college. An SAS counselor will work with you to develop an Academic Accommodations Plan (AAP) which will indicate the accommodations for which you are eligible. Accommodations listed on your high school IEP/504 Plan may be informative, but not determinative as to the accommodations listed on your AAP. SAS will work with you to determine what accommodations or services can best meet your needs.

3. Take the Lead in Communicating

In college, the student will take an active role in self-advocacy. It is important to communicate with your instructors to inform them about any accommodations you intend to utilize. The SAS Office is here to support you, including helping you initiate these conversations.

4. Meeting Requirements

To enroll in courses or programs, you will need to meet the same prerequisites, such as minimum GPA or completion of prerequisites, as other students. These requirements ensure you are prepared for success.

5. Request Accommodations Early

Planning ahead is key. Be sure to request academic accommodations well before you need them. This ensures everything is in place when classes begin.

6. Follow the College Code of Conduct

Being a part of the SBVC community means respecting the college code of conduct. This helps create a positive and inclusive environment for everyone. All students must adhere to the college code of conduct regardless of disability status.

7. Personal Assistance Is Your Responsibility

If you need help with personal tasks like eating, toileting, or ensuring safety, then it is your responsibility to arrange for a Personal Attendant (PA). Sponsoring agencies such as Inland Regional Center and the Department of Rehabilitation may be able to fund the cost of a PA.

8. Your Privacy Is Protected

Your information is safe with us. The SAS Office follows FERPA guidelines to maintain the confidentiality of your academic records.

SAS is committed to supporting your journey from high school to college and beyond. If you have questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact SAS at (909) 384-4443 or apply for services at www.valleycollege.edu/SAS.

Together, we can ensure your success at SBVC!