

Access versus Success

Some students who come directly to Alverno College from high school programs may have experienced program modifications designed to assure some form of success (under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that governs K-12 public schools). It is not uncommon for students or parents to assume that these kinds of program modifications will be available in college. They are not. IDEA does not apply to postsecondary education.

While we hope all of our students will achieve success, the laws do not require colleges to ensure success. Rather, disability accommodations in higher education are focused on access. Requests for accommodation may include modification of instructional or testing methodology, but will not include a waiver of any essential element or changes in the fundamental nature of a class or program. Students are not entitled to the accommodation they may prefer, or that might have been provided them in another educational setting. However, the College considers the requested and preferred accommodation, on a case-by-case basis, as supported by documentation.