



## Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)

### The Changing Role of Parents

As the parent of a son or daughter with a disability, you have likely been providing valuable advocacy and support for his or her educational needs for many years. Now that your son or daughter is an adult learner, it is important for you to become aware of your changing role. Perhaps one of the most difficult changes you will experience is that your supportive role must now be “behind the scenes.” With your son’s or daughter’s consent, you are welcome to attend the initial counseling meeting. However, future meetings will be limited to your son or daughter and the counselor.

College students are expected to advocate for themselves and seek counseling advice as needed. Students are encouraged to make an appointment to meet with their counselor on a regular basis. Counseling sessions are the appropriate time to discuss academic accommodations, educational planning and academic progress. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of student educational records and information. This means that if you call or come to our office to discuss your son’s or daughter’s progress, the CSD staff will not disclose any information. We encourage you to discuss your concerns directly with your son or daughter.

In college, there are no Individual Education Plans (IEPs) ensuring success as there were in high school. High school IEPs do not dictate accommodations or services at the college level. IDEA establishes special education as an entitlement in high school and does not apply to the college setting.

In the college setting, two major laws outline the way students with disabilities receive services: the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act. Under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, colleges are required to provide equal access to their programs and activities. To facilitate equal access, academic accommodations are provided to students on a case by case basis. Services will be determined by the counselor in consultation with the student. Like all college students, your son or daughter will be given the opportunity to pass or fail based on his/her performance and the academic standards of the course.

Like you, we want your son or daughter to transition successfully from high school and to enjoy a positive experience at Santa Monica College.