



**VISION 2023 Conference
Alexandria Campus
Wednesday, May 24, 2023
6:30-8:30 PM**



**Presented by: Ms. Tracy L. Bell, MA, CRC
Counselor, Accommodations and Accessibility Services**

WELCOME!

- Acknowledgements
 - *APS/NOVA Partnership*
 - *APS Staff & Parent Resource Center*
 - *Guests – Speakers and Attendees*
- Housekeeping
 - *Please keep microphone muted except when prompted to unmute*
 - *Use the Chat for questions and comments*
 - *Spanish language interpreting*
 - *ASL Interpreting*
 - *Closed captioning*
 - *Session will be recorded*

Greetings from Special Guests

- Rachel Bowerman, Assistant Principal
Arlington Career Center, Arlington Public Schools
- Kathleen Odige, Dean of Student Success
NOVA Alexandria Campus
- Krystal Edmead, Director
NOVA Accommodations and Accessibility Services

Presentation





Key Topics

- NOVA Facts
- Becoming a NOVA Nighthawk
- Transitioning from High School to College
- Understanding College Accommodations
- Accommodations Application Process
- Student Responsibilities at NOVA from an Accommodations Perspective
- College/Campus Resources
- Final Thoughts

NOVA Facts

- One of the largest community colleges in the U.S.
- Largest public educational system in Virginia
- Open Enrollment and no application fees
- 80,000+ students; 3,400 PT and FT faculty, administrators, and staff members
- 6 campuses, Reston Center, and NOVA Online
 - *Alexandria, Annandale, Loudon, Manassas, Medical Education, Woodbridge*
- One of most internationally diverse colleges in US with individuals from 180+ countries
- Offers 100+ degrees (associates and certificates), including distance learning through NOVA Online and continuing education through Workforce Development

Becoming a NOVA Nighthawk!



Becoming a NOVA Nighthawk

(<https://www.nvcc.edu/orientation/>)

- **Step 1:** Apply online for admissions and financial aid
 - Set up MFA to access critical tools using your MyNOVA account (i.e., Canvas, etc.)
- **Step 2:** Complete direct enrollment and self-informed placement survey to determine English and Math placement
- **Step 3:** Complete student orientation and consult with an advisor
- **Step 4:** Register and pay for classes before session starts
- **Note:** Email correspondence will initially be sent to your personal email account until you have registered and paid for your courses. Then all correspondence will only be sent via your NOVA student email account per College policy.

Transitioning from High School to College



Transition Often Means Change



Common Differences Between High School & College

High School

- Highly Structured
- Courses offered may provide more instructor assistance
- Student is a “child,” the parent is responsible
- Grades given to parents
- Teachers call parents for a conference
- Grades might reflect effort
- School creates social and cultural activities to enhance education
- Multiple stakeholders with parental input for IEP/504 meetings

College

- More flexible
- Courses may be more demanding, and professors may require higher levels of critical thinking skills
- Student is considered to be an adult
- Grades given to student
- Professors have no parental contact
- Grades reflect performance
- Student must find campus activities and organizations
- Student has locus of control regarding accommodations

Understanding College Accommodations



NOVA Accommodations and Accessibility Services Mission Statement

- NOVA is committed to providing **equal access** to its programs, facilities, and services for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American With Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.
- Accommodations and Accessibility Services Counselors work closely with each student to develop and implement appropriate accommodations that directly reflect the needs of the student. Information obtained through medical documentation and the student interview are vital to this process.
Accommodations Counselors:
 - Review documentation to determine reasonable accommodations.
 - Maintain confidentiality and support students in developing/improving their self-advocacy skills.
 - Provide guidelines to faculty, staff, and students.
- The more knowledgeable a student is about their disability and how it affects them academically, the more likely they can access their education.

IEP/504 vs. Memorandum of Accommodation

IEP/504

- School identifies disability
- School performs assessment at their expense
- Curriculum can be modified.
- Can be retroactive
- Informs teachers of diagnosis/accommodations

MOA

- Student self-identifies to NOVA
- Assessment/documentation at student's own expense
- Cannot be modified. Guarantees you *accommodations for equal access*
- Never retroactive
- Informs instructors of accommodations only

Examples of Common Academic Accommodations

Classroom Accommodations

- Advanced access to professor handouts, slides, overheads
- Interpreter Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Use of recording devices during lectures

Testing Accommodations

- Additional time for tests/exams/quizzes
- Reduced distraction testing environment (if needed)

Other Accommodations

- Materials in alternative format (Braille, Electronic, Large Print)
- Various assistive technology tools (Read Write, Glean, Livescribe Pen, etc.)
- Food/water allowed in class and during testing

More on Accommodations in Post-Secondary Education

- Accommodations are individualized to the student and their needs, *not their preferences!*
- Accommodations **may be** different than what a student received in high school.
- Accommodations in college guarantee **ACCESS**, but this may or may not mean success.
- Students are encouraged to apply early. Accommodations are not retroactive.
- Accommodations deemed unreasonable, unlawful, inappropriate, or that fundamentally alter the nature of a course or program may be denied.



Colleges Are Not Required to Provide

- Personal tutors
- Mandated weekly or bi-weekly parent/student/instructor meetings
- Comprehensive diagnostic evaluations
- Designated classes for students with accommodations.
- Open-book or untimed exams
- One-on-one individual personal care services (including aides in a classroom)
- One-to-one individual assistance to and from class

Tips on Preparing for College as a Student Seeking Accommodations

- Be Self Aware – How well do you know yourself, including your disability. Be prepared to clearly describe your disability. This includes knowing your strengths and your weaknesses.
- The better you know how your disability affects you, the more effective you can be in determining what types of assistance/accommodations you need.
- Develop/strengthen your self-advocacy skills in order to rely less on parents/guardians to speak, problem-solve, etc. for you.
- Familiarize yourself with technology, i.e., Office 365, Canvas, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.

Accommodations Application Process



Accommodations Application Process

- Accommodations and Accessibility Services Website: <https://www.nvcc.edu/accommodations/index.html>
- Complete the online application **AND**
 - Upload the appropriate documentation. See guidelines on website.
 - **Note:** K-12 IEP/504 Plan does not automatically follow you to college and **may not** be sufficient to establish eligibility for accommodations at the post-secondary level! Start with what you have, and we will let you know if more is needed.



When to Apply

Ideally

- For Fall semester (runs August to December)
 - Mid June - end of July
- For Spring semester (runs January to May)
 - November - mid-December
- For Summer semester (runs May to August)
 - Late March - end of April

In reality

- Any time before the session/semester begins until the end of the session/semester

Fact

- MOA can be provided to an instructor at any time during the semester
- Accommodations are not retroactive.

After You Apply

- Monitor NOVA student email, personal email, and phone number (with voicemail set up) provided on the application. The assigned Accommodations and Accessibility Counselor will contact you to schedule an intake appointment.
- Receive a Memorandum of Accommodation (MOA). (Must be registered for at least one course to generate an MOA.)
- Meet with each instructor - in a private location - to provide MOA and discuss needs in each class.



Student Responsibilities at NOVA from an Accommodations Perspective




Student Responsibilities

- **Registering for Accommodations**
 - Register for services online and upload appropriate documentation for review.
- **Implementing Accommodations**
 - Students are expected to communicate with their professors early in the semester to:
 - Submit a copy of their current MOA.
 - Discuss their specific needs for each class.
 - Arrange for specific course/testing accommodations, as necessary.

Student Responsibilities (cont.)

○ Follow-up

- Students are expected to immediately inform their assigned Accommodations and Accessibility Services Counselor of barriers/concerns that arise.
- Students should notify their assigned Accommodations and Accessibility Services Counselor of any changes to disability/medical diagnosis and provide additional documentation, if needed.
- Students are required to request an updated MOA, ideally prior to the start of each semester (Reminders with instructions will be emailed).



NOVA from an Accommodations Perspective

- Students with disabilities are held to the same academic standards as students without disabilities.
- Students with disabilities can engage in any activity or event hosted by the college and can request/receive needed accommodations through the event organizer.
- AAS Counselors, students, and faculty work collaboratively through an interactive process to resolve accommodations-related concerns.
- AAS Counselors provide workshops/training to faculty/staff to increase their knowledge and awareness of different types of disabilities and how they can academically impact students, Universal Design principles which can benefit all students, and other aspects of the accommodations process.

College Resources



Student Support Services

ACADEMIC

- [Student Support Center](#)
- [Virtual Advising](#)
- [Remote 24-HOUR Student Support Services](#)
- Career Services
- Tutoring

PERSONAL / FINANCIAL

- [NOVA Wellness & Mental Health](#)
- [Telehealth Services](#)
- [Financial Stability and Advocacy](#)

Resources include Campus Food Pantries, Scholarships, Student Emergency Grants, Free Tax Preparation and Filing



Student Support Services (cont.)

- Library
- Testing Center (some with private rooms)
- Student Life

Other Supports (Vary by campus)

- Academic Coaching
- Writing Center
- Math Lab
- Science Lab
- Teaching, Innovation, Learning, and Technology (TILT)
- Hosted programs: College Steps (AL, AN, LO)



Final Thoughts



Final Thoughts

- A student who receives special education services in high school will likely need accommodations in college!
- Students are encouraged to apply for accommodations sooner rather than later!
- Students don't have to struggle unnecessarily!
- Pace yourself! We all learn differently and at a different pace. And that's ok!

QUESTIONS?



For Additional Information

- **US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights**
 - Resource Pamphlet: Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>
 - To receive more information about the civil rights of students with disabilities in education institutions, you may contact:

Customer Service Team Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education Washington, D.C. 20202-1100
Phone: 1-800-421-3481
TDD: 1- 877-521-2172
Email: ocr@ed.gov
Web site: www.ed.gov/ocr

Guest Speaker

Ms. Elizabeth Tikoyan



Parent Q&A

General questions only, please



Announcements

**Virtual New Student Orientation Sessions for
Students Seeking Accommodations**





Accommodations and Accessibility Services Virtual New Student Orientation



Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
May 23, June 20, July 18, August 15

Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
June 7, July 12, August 2

Interested in learning more about accommodations,
the importance of self-advocacy, NOVA resources, etc.?
Join one of our sessions!

Scan the QR Code to register.



If you require accommodations in order to participate in this
Event, or have any questions, send your request at least
one week in advance to Pamela Lucas, plucas@nvcc.edu.



Thank You for Attending!

<https://www.nvcc.edu/accommodations/index.html>

