High school / college:
different laws, different services

Differences in the legal mandates between high school and postsecondary education mean that accommodations in college are not necessarily duplications of what a student received in high school. In high school, accommodations are provided to ensure the success of the student; in college, accommodations are provided to ensure equal access. Success is the responsibility of the student.
DSS works with students who have a variety of disabilities, including:
- Learning Disability
- ADHD
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Psychological/Mental Health Disorder
- Physical Disability
- Chronic Illness
- Neurological Disability

The primary goal of University of Maine Disability Support Services (DSS) is to create educational access for UMaine students with disabilities by providing a point of coordination, information and education for them and the campus community. The DSS staff promotes self-determination and personal responsibility for students with disabilities by educating them about their rights and responsibilities so they can make informed choices in order to meet or exceed the standards expected of all University of Maine students.

Am I eligible?
Eligibility for disability accommodations is based on a combination of disability documentation, functional limitations and guidelines developed by the university. Students with documented disabilities will meet with DSS staff to determine eligibility for accommodations on a case-by-case basis.

What kind of documentation must I provide?
When a disability is not otherwise apparent, the student must provide current documentation of disability and accommodation need from a qualified medical or other licensed professional. Students are encouraged to obtain a copy of the documentation guidelines from the DSS office or online (umaine.edu/disability). In general, the less obvious the disability, the more information is required. This information is confidential and not part of the permanent student record.

How do I get services?
Disclosure of disability when applying to the University of Maine for admission is separate from the process for arranging accommodations. Students must contact DSS, provide documentation of disability, and schedule an appointment to meet with DSS staff to discuss needs and develop an individualized accommodation plan.

We encourage students to come in early to set up accommodations and services. Students requiring housing accommodations need to contact DSS well in advance of the start of the semester.