



Getting accommodations at college

Having eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) doesn't have to hold you back when you head off to college. But you'll have to think about what support you might need since this may be the first time you're in charge of managing your condition, making and keeping provider appointments, taking your medications, and following your diet. Getting accommodations at college may make it easier for you to juggle college demands and your illness. Getting accommodations means the college agrees to let you accomplish your work at college in alternate ways. It can also apply to living arrangements.

Find out what you need

Visit schools if you can before choosing where you will go. That way you can see where you will attend class and live, if you'll be living away at school. You can also gather information about the accommodations you may need and the school's accommodations policies.

Steps you may need to take

Here is what the process of applying for accommodations looks like for many students with EoE:

1. Visit the school and get an idea of what the environment is like.
2. Talk with food services about your dietary restrictions and needs and how they can meet your needs.
3. Think about what other accommodations you will need.

Common accommodations include:

- More time for assignments, quizzes, midterms and final exams.
- Test taking in an alternate location.
- Breaks during exams.

- Specific accommodations related to housing.
- Allowed absences when related to illness.

4. Complete an application and submit it along with any required documentation, such as a statement from your health care provider.
5. Speak with an accessibility counselor, if needed or required.

Once the school approves the accommodations, it's up to you to let your professors and teaching staff know about your accommodations and what your needs are for their classes. You'll also want to ask when you need to reapply for the accommodations.

EoE is considered a disability under federal law. That means you likely will qualify for accommodations at school if you need them. It's up to you what you disclose about your illness and what accommodations you request.*

*Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. You can learn more here: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>.

