

## **FAQ for Onondaga Pathways to Careers (OPC) Scholars and Families for Transitioning to College**

**1. Will my disability-related paperwork automatically transfer to OCC, or my college of choice, when I graduate?**

No, it will not. It is the responsibility of the student to send their paperwork to the disability services office at the college they will be attending. Students joining the OPC Scholars program will be asked to turn their paperwork in to OPC at the time of their application to Scholars. Final documents should also be sent to the Office of Accessibility Resources (or your chosen college's disability services office) following high school graduation.

**2. I had a personal aide (1:1, mentor, etc.) in high school. Will OCC or other colleges provide this service for me as well?**

No. It is the responsibility of the student and family to provide this service themselves. At OCC, we do require a personal aide be registered with an accredited agency, such as Exceptional Family Resources. Agencies such as OPWDD and Access-VR may be able to help procure and provide funding for this service, but this is determined individually with these agencies and does not involve OCC during this process.

**3. Is there a resource room or something similar at OCC?**

No. All students are eligible to receive tutoring, study skills help and workshops through our Learning Center. However, there is not the support of a resource room like you may have had in high school.

**4. Does my disability specialist meet with me and others to regularly discuss my accommodations and progress?**

No. Unlike meetings that may have occurred with or among your special education teachers and counselors in high school, the college does not meet concerning the regular progress of students. It is the responsibility of each student to seek out support as soon as the need arises and to let staff members, such as their disability specialist, know if they are having any issues or problems, academically or otherwise.

**5. Is information regarding a student's disability and accommodation plan confidential?**

Yes. In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), information regarding a student's educational records is considered private and confidential. In order for college staff to share information about a student's disability and accommodation plans, the student must first sign a release of information allowing staff to do so.

**6. I completed the OPC Scholars application and was accepted to the program. Does this mean I do not have to apply to Onondaga Community College?**

No. These are separate applications. You are also required to apply to the college, and be accepted, to become a student at OCC.

