



## Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Parent/Family Resource Page:

**Acknowledgment:** Sending a child off to college is filled with many hopes for your student. To date, you have been your student’s greatest advocate and have laid the foundation for your student to be a self-determined young adult. The role of SAS is to support students as they navigate the college setting while reinforcing independence and self-advocacy. In college, it is the expectation that the student will initiate contact with SAS to discuss access, barriers, faculty issues, and accommodation requests. The following information has been compiled as a resource to answer your questions.

**Higher Education, Disability, and the Law:** As a student enrolls in college, the law that governs service/delivery in the K-12 system (IDEA, 1997) changes to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 1973, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA-AA, 2008), and the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 1974). These acts place the student as the lead advocate for access needs and privacy, thus changing the role of parent advocacy.

| Level of Education             | The Law                                     | The Intent      |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| K-12 Education                 | IDEA, 1997                                  | SUCCESS         |
| Higher Education<br>Disability | Section 504-Rehab Act, 1973<br>ADA-AA, 2008 | ACCESS          |
| Higher Education<br>General    | FERPA                                       | CONFIDENTIALITY |

**Disclosure of Disability:** At the college level, the student must contact Student Accessibility Services and disclose disability to qualify for accommodations and services. Students are paired with a *Coordinator* who will review documentation, engage in an interactive discussion with the student about barriers to learning and what accommodations will provide access to the college curriculum.

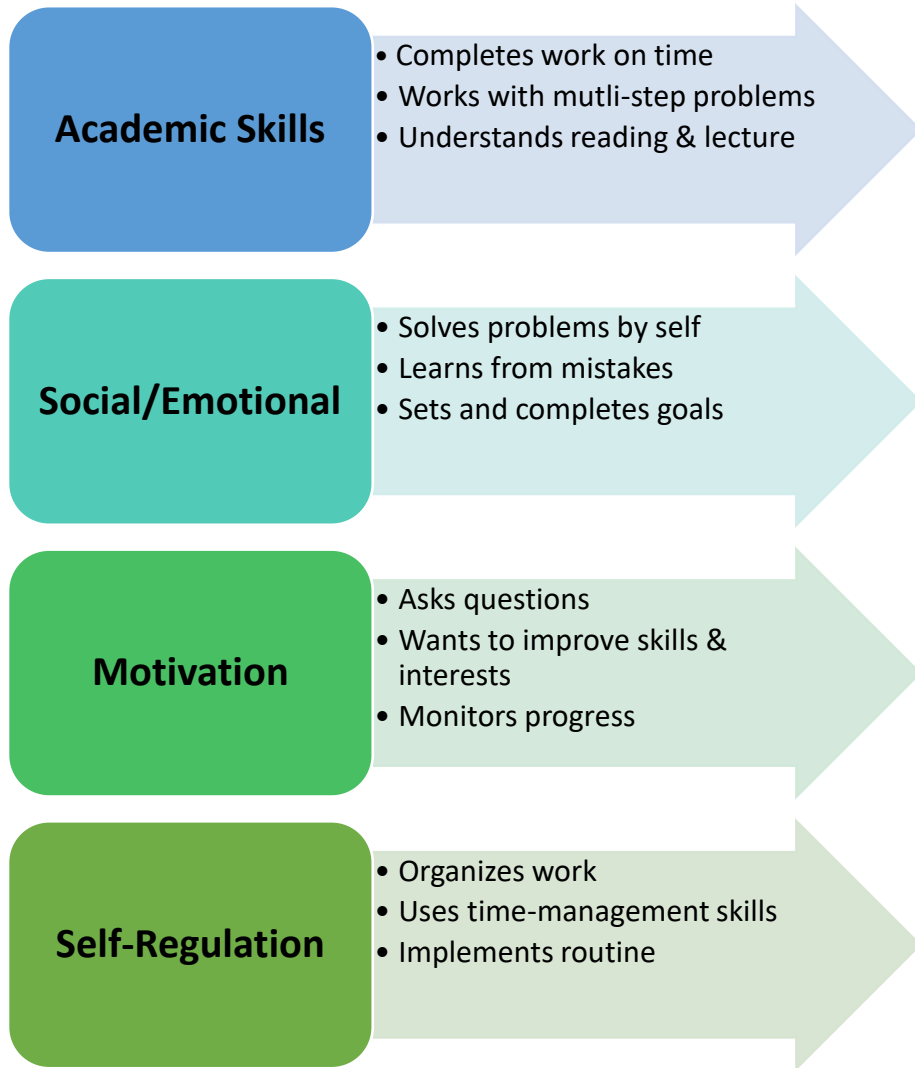
### Student Steps for Starting with SAS

- Contact:** Call or email SAS to schedule an *Intake Interview*
- Send:** Send your disability documentation to SAS
- Complete:** Complete the *Selfie* provided when you make your appointment
- Meet:** Meet with a Coordinator to discuss the nature of your disability and eligibility for accommodations
- Receive:** Your accommodation letter will be sent to your Qmail account and then you distribute it to faculty

**College Accommodations:** As students move from high school to college it is important to understand that accommodations do not automatically transfer from one setting to the next. Accommodations are determined through an interactive process involving the student and the Coordinator, semester-by-semester, based on the barriers presented in the classroom or on campus. *Special Note:* Behavior expectations are not negotiable or accommodated. All students follow the *Student Code of Conduct* as outlined in the Student Handbook.

**The Changing Role of Parent Advocacy:** Colleges want your student to be successful academically and socially. Much of a student’s success relates to the skills and strategies developed in the areas of: *Academic Skills, Social/Emotional Regulation, Motivation, and Self-Regulation*. (Osterholt & Dennis, 2014) Rather than “doing” for the student, it is important to help your student develop these college-ready skills and practice the skills as they leave high school and enter college.

**Examples of Skill Areas that Build Student Success:** Helping your student manage the skills below will provide a foundation for academic success. (Osterholt & Dennis, 2014)



**How can I build these skills?** There are many ways to have your student build solid strategies that will assist in success in all areas of

adult life. Below are just a few recommendations to help your student transition to adulthood and higher education.

### ***Empower your student to...***

- Follow through with commitments
- Learn from mistakes
- Participate in IEP/504 meetings in high school
- Make medical appointments
- Manage a bank account
- Gather and manage documents
- Do their own laundry
- Shop and prep food
- Place limits on social media and gaming
- Determine transportation
- Participate in an internship or job

**Final Thoughts:** The role of SAS is to collaborate with the student, faculty, and staff to create a campus environment that is usable, equitable, sustainable, and inclusive for all members of the college community. SAS is committed to student success and helping students to become resilient and independent learners.

### **Contact Us:**



### **Student Accessibility Services**

Quinsigamond Community College

Worcester, MA 01606

Phone: 508.854.4470

Email: [sas@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:sas@qcc.mass.edu)

Sorenson Video Phone: 508.502.7647