

Specific Learning Disabilities

A learning disability is a permanent neurological disorder that affects the manner in which information is received, organized, remembered, and then retrieved or expressed. Students with learning disabilities possess average to above average intelligence.

Terms associated with learning disabilities include:

- dyslexia-inability to read.
- dyscalculia-inability to do
- dysgraphia-inability to write words with appropriate syntax.
- dysphasia-inability to speak with fluency or sometimes to understand others.
- figure-ground perception-inability to see an object from a background of other objects.
- visual discrimination-inability to see the difference in objects.
- auditory figure-ground perception-inability to hear one sound among others.
- auditory sequencing-inability to hear sounds in the right order.

Characteristics may include an inability to perform in accordance with the norm in such areas as:

- listening comprehension.
- written expression-spelling errors, sentence structure, organization and development.
- basic reading skills-slow reading rate and retention, tracking skills, difficulty with syntax on tests.
- mathematical reasoning and calculation-basic operations, number reversals and confusion of symbols, copying problems, concept of time.
- social skills-spatial disorientation, low frustration level, low self-esteem, problem resolution.
- study skills and time management.

Accommodations may include:

- reduced course load.
- extended time to complete assignments.
- tape recorders.
- note-taking.
- taped texts.
- readers.
- extended time for in class assignments.
- assistive technology (calculator, word processor)
- extended time for testing, nondistracting environment.

Tips for Faculty That Facilitate Student Learning

- select a text with a study guide.
- include a statement on the syllabi that students need to provide a disability Verification letter within the first two weeks of class.
- write key terms on the board to provide a lecture handout.
- create study guides.
- provide guided lecture questions.
- briefly review the previous
- use visual aids.
- face the class when speaking.
- administer frequent quizzes to provide feedback.
- provide PowerPoint slide copies before the lecture.