

LEARNING DISABILITIES

Mathematical Skills:

- Incomplete mastery of basic arithmetic facts
- Reversal of numbers
- Incorrect copying of math problems
- Sequence of operation out of order
- Difficulty in comprehending concepts and reasoning

Organizational/Study Skills:

- Poor time management;
- Difficulty in starting and completing tasks
- Unrealistic goals; strives for overachievement to compensate
- Limited recall and retention of information; difficulty in organizing information
- Difficulty when understanding oral and/or written information; especially new concepts
- Poor organization of class notes and compositions

Social Skills:

- Inaccurate use of body language and facial expression per situation; poor self-monitoring
- Misunderstanding of subtle messages and behavior (i.e. sarcasm and teasing)
- Difficulty and frustration when working in groups

- Failure to accurately assess environment; results in inappropriate conclusions/poor judgment
- Unable to receive constructive criticism; viewed as attack of self-worth

Suggestions to help LD students succeed in the classroom

- Provide a detailed course outline. Thoroughly present class expectations and requirements
- Begin class lectures with a brief summary of materials to be covered for that day
- Speak directly to students; use gestures and provide examples
- Highlight key points of lecture
- Write new or technical vocabulary on the blackboard; use terms in context to aid student's understanding
- Provide regular progress reports throughout the semester
- Provide opportunity for questions during each class session if possible

For further information

contact:

Disability Services

(located in the Campbell

Learning Resource Center C-21 8)

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LEARNING DISABILITIES

(LD)

Learning Disabilities refer to a variety of disorders that affect the acquisition, retention, understanding, organization, or use of verbal and/or non-verbal information. Learning disabilities deficits can range from mild to severe and invariably interfere with the acquisition and use of one or more of the following skills:

- Oral language (i.e. listening, speaking, understanding)
- Reading (i.e. decoding, comprehension)
- Written language (i.e. spelling, written expression)
- Mathematics (i.e. computation, problem-solving)

Facts about Learning Disabilities

- A Learning Disability (LD) is a permanent disorder which affects the manner in which information is processed, stored, or retrieved. It is not a form of retardation, an emotional disorder, or caused by environmental deficits.
- Every student with a learning disability has a unique combination of abilities and deficiencies.

- Students with learning disabilities have normal to above average intelligence and can learn successfully when individualized self-management skills and strategies are implemented and accommodation is provided.
- Learning disabilities are often inconsistent in their manifestation. For example, a student with a learning disability may have perfect verbal understanding and articulation and yet not be able to successfully grasp written instructions. In addition, LD students may be able to effectively perform a skill one day, but not the next.
- Students with learning disabilities can easily become frustrated because their "invisible handicap" is often not understood or accepted by others. Often, students with learning disabilities have low self-esteem and impaired socialization skills which impacts their daily life activities.

Common Characteristics of LD College Students

Reading Skills:

- Reading rate is slow
- Comprehension and retention are poor
- Difficulty in identifying key points
- Incomplete mastery of phonics and confusion of similar words
- Difficulty in learning new vocabulary and technical terms

Written Language Skills:

- Faulty sentence structure
- Frequent spelling errors
- Miscopying of information from book or blackboard
- Writing speed is slowed
- Penmanship is poor (especially cursive)
- Writing and thinking in unison are difficulty

Oral Language Skills:

- Poor concentration affect comprehension of oral language
- Expressing ideas and finding correct word is difficult
- Mispronunciation of multi-syllable words
- Inability to sequence events
- Tendency to "tune out" when spoken word is not understood