

- Speak directly to the student using natural tones, gestures, and expressions. It may be necessary to repeat instructions.
- If possible, present new/technical vocabulary in a handout. Use terms in context for understanding.
- Attempt to link new material to previously learned material. It is also helpful to include the "Why" of new concepts.
- Provide ample time for questions and answers.
- Avoid confrontations with student. Try to redirect the student's attention to positive goals or tasks. Positive reinforcement is helpful.

# **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

**For further information or  
assistance, please contact:**

**Disability Services  
C-218  
(734) 384-4167**

**Monroe County  
Community College  
1555 S. Raisinville Rd  
Monroe Michigan 48161**

## **Traumatic Brain Injury**

Every year 1.4 million Americans suffer from a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). This is also referred to as a Closed Head Injury. 50% of TBIs occur from automobile accidents. Traumatic Brain Injury is caused by a blow or other traumatic injury to the head. The degree of damage depends on several factors: the nature of the event, the force of impact, and where the brain structure was damaged.

TBIs can cause mild dysfunction or severe, long-term impairment.

A wide range of physical and psychological effects occur in TBI.

### **Common symptoms:**

- Poor memory
- Slowed processing speed
- Deficits in decision-making skills
- Difficulty with attention/concentration
- Difficulty completing tasks
- Poor organization
- Inability to multitask

### **Common Difficulties:**

#### **Physical Symptoms:**

- Mobility and balance
- Fine motor skills
- Headaches
- Convulsions/seizures

#### **Emotional Symptoms:**

Emotional adjustments in TBI often lag behind physical recovery. Students with TBIs often struggle with:

- Depression,
- Anxiety
- Mood swings and irritability
- Lack of empathy for others
- Poor self esteem
- Lack of motivation

#### **Sensory Symptoms:**

- Dizziness
- Persistent ear ringing
- Blind spots/double vision
- Bitter tastes
- Intense sense of smell
- Tingling, itching, pain in body

### **Common Academic Difficulties:**

#### **Reading Skills:**

- Reading rate
- Comprehension and retention
- Identifying key points
- New/technical vocabulary

#### **Written Language Skills:**

- Sentence structure
- Spelling
- Handwriting skills
- Writing and thinking in unison
- Summarizing, drawing conclusions, and differentiating between fact and opinion

#### **Oral Language Skills:**

- Expressing ideas and finding the right words
- Sequencing events
- Processing time

#### **Mathematical Skills:**

- Recall of basic arithmetic facts
- Operational symbols
- Sequencing
- Abstract concepts and reasoning

#### **Social Skills:**

- Subtle messages, such as sarcasm or joking, may be misinterpreted.
- Group activity
- Receiving constructive criticism
- Perfectionist tendencies due to desire to compensate for loss of ability

#### **Organization and Study Skills:**

- Time management
- Recall and retention.
- Oral and/or written instructions

### **Classroom Suggestions:**

- Provide a detailed course syllabus. Include information on grading, tests, quizzes, papers, and assignments. Specifically discuss class expectations and goals.
- If possible, begin daily lectures with a brief outline of the material to be covered and conclude with a brief summary of key points.