



CENTER FOR ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Frequently occurring characteristics of students with learning disabilities

What are learning disabilities?

A learning disability is a disorder that affects the way in which students take on, express or retain information. It manifests as a deficit in one or more of the following areas: oral expression, auditory processing, written expression, reading decoding, reading comprehension, or math calculations. Students with learning disabilities or attention deficit disorders may also experience difficulty with sustained attention, time management, social interactions and executive functions.

Learning disabilities are cross-cultural.

Learning disabilities are often inconsistent and may be more or less apparent given the demands of the environment.

Frequently occurring characteristics of students with learning disabilities

There is a discrepancy between oral and written work

The student generally works slowly in comparison to their peers

The student is unable to sustain concentration

The student has a poor ability to memorize

The student has difficulty following directions, especially oral directions or directions with more than one step

The student frequently asks for directions to be repeated

The student has little confidence

The student is self-conscious about their work

The student may be able to explain things orally but not in writing

If you suspect that a student in your class has a learning disability, you should refer them to Accessibility Services for a consultation. Please assure students that the initial appointment is just to determine if further investigation of the problem is indicated and that all discussions will remain confidential.