ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

ATTENTION DEFICIT-HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

Characteristics and General Information

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention deficit- hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are diagnosed disorders, which at times impact a student's learning. Documented diagnosis of ADD or ADHD is required for students to receive accommodations. At times, a student may have a diagnosis of ADD or ADHD and a Specified Learning Disability. Students with this disorder may have great difficulty in paying close attention to detail, may make careless mistakes, and may find themselves distracted during lengthy class or study sessions.

Possible Accommodations

- Extended time for exams
- Separate and individual test taking in CTLE, separate classroom, or office as appropriate
- Use of a note-taker or tape recorder in class
- Faculty sharing notes as is appropriate and feasible

There are three main signs/symptoms of ADD/ADHD:

1. Problems with paying attention (Inattentive)
2. Being very active (Hyperactivity)
3. Combined Subtype

A. Inattentive Subtype- symptoms include inability to pay attention to details or a tendency to make careless errors in schoolwork, or other activities with signs including:

- Difficulty with sustained attention in tasks or play
- Apparent listening problems
- Difficulty following instructions
- Problems organizing tasks/activities
- Avoidance of tasks that require mental effort
- Distraction or forgetfulness in daily activities

B. Hyperactivity-Impulsive Subtype- signs including:

- Fidgeting or Squirming
- Always seeming to be “on the go”
- Blurt out answers before hearing the full question
- Difficulty waiting for a turn
- Problems with interrupting/intruding

C. Combined Type- Students with the combined type of ADD/ADHD have symptoms of both types described above. They have difficulties paying attention, hyperactivity, and controlling their impulses.