PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES

Characteristics and General Information

Individuals with psychiatric disabilities are becoming more numerous as medical management of such conditions becomes more sophisticated. Most individuals with psychiatric disabilities are involved in therapy outside of school and many are currently taking medications to help manage their condition. Many students with psychiatric disabilities have previously attended college and they often have strong intellectual abilities, but they may doubt those abilities after their illness. Given some support and classroom accommodations, most students will do well.

Types of Disabilities

Some of the more common psychiatric disabilities that students may identify are bi-polar affective disorder; schizophrenia; obsessive-compulsive disorder; and clinical depression. For many students medication often causes thought processing and expressive abilities to be slower than usual. Sensitivity about in-class assignments, particularly oral presentation, is important.

Possible Accommodations

- Extended time for exams
- Separate and individual test taking in CTLE, separate classroom, or office as appropriate
- Understanding of occasional absences due to medication issues
- Extended time to complete assignments