



Diverse Minds, Unified Success: Embracing Neurodiversity in the Classroom



Neurodiversity is an umbrella term referring to *natural* variation in the human brain in learning, mood, attention, sociability, and other cognitive functions.

The term encompasses a variety of neurological conditions and focuses on *differences* rather than *deficits*, suggesting there is no “*correct*” way for the brain to work.

Why consider neurodiversity when designing your course?

Enhance
Inclusivity

Improve
Learning
Outcomes

Foster
Innovation &
Creativity

Support Mental
Health &
Wellbeing

”

“The world needs all kinds of minds.”

-Temple Grandin



QR code links to a Ted Talk by Temple Grandin

6 Common Neurodiverse Conditions:

Strengths + Challenges

ASD

Strong memory skills, excels in systematic and detailed thinking

Changes in routine, social interactions and sensory sensitivities

ADHD

Energetic, creative, excels in quick/dynamic thinking or problem solving

Sustained attention, impulse control, & time management

Dyslexia

Strong reasoning and problem solving, ability to think spatially/in pictures

Reading, writing, and spelling difficulties affect comprehension/expression

Dyspraxia

Empathetic, strong verbal and visual-spatial skills, excel in holistic thinking

Motor coordination, organization/planning, sensory sensitivity

Specific Learning Disorders

Strong problem solving (in areas outside of specific difficulty), creativity

Specific to condition (e.g., math with dyscalculia; handwriting/motor skills with dysgraphia)

Tourette Syndrome

Energetic, strong auditory processing skills, resilient, unique perspectives on tasks

Involuntary vocal/motor tics may at times be disruptive personally and to others

Additional Helpful Resources for Educators:

- **Inside Higher Ed** discusses the expansion of programs like LifePATH at Lone Star College, which are designed to support neurodivergent students by enhancing their career readiness and employment opportunities. [Creating Career Pathways for Neurodiverse Students](#)
- **Neurodiversity Hub** offers extensive resources including programs, academic accommodations, and employment opportunities tailored for neurodivergent students. It also provides training for employers and universities to better integrate neurodivergent talent. [Neurodiversity Hub Resources](#)
- **University College London** provides guidance on creating neurodiversity-friendly environments in educational settings, detailing practical adjustments for neurodivergent students and scholars to thrive academically and socially. [Supporting Neurodiversity in Education - UCL](#)
- **Northern Illinois University** explores neurodiversity in higher education, offering insights into inclusive teaching strategies and classroom behaviors that benefit neurodivergent students. [Neurodiversity & Higher Education - NIU](#)



Questions about this handout:

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