

FACULTY AND STAFF HANDBOOK

Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD)

Description

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is characterized by a persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity that is more frequent and severe than is typically observed in individuals at a comparable level of development (DSM IV). Students with ADHD or ADD (without hyperactivity) may have difficulty with concentration, distractibility, organization, task-completion, and sedentary tasks such as reading and/or planning.

ADHD arises during childhood (symptoms appear at or before the age of seven) and is attributed neither to gross neurological, sensory, language, or motor impairment nor to mental retardation or severe emotional disturbance. Some students with ADHA are prescribed medication for their condition. This medication may be a stimulant, which actually calms them and helps them focus on tasks. Anti-depressants may also be prescribed.

Colleges and universities are required by federal law to ensure program access by providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations. If a faculty member believes an accommodation listed in a student's accommodation letter would change the fundamental nature of the course or program, he or she should contact the SAO Director immediately. Accommodations for students with ADHD vary, determined by the severity of ADHD (as identified by the student's documentation), the individual's coping strategies, and the manner in which course material is presented and/or assessed.

Common accommodations include, but are not limited to:

- Extended time for in-class examinations
- Minimal distraction area for in-class examinations
- Note taker
- Tape recorder
- Priority seating

Arranging for Accommodations

After receiving an Accommodation Letter from the Student Access Office, the faculty member will be contacted by the student to discuss how the accommodations listed in the letter will be arranged.

Suggestions

The following strategies can enhance learning for students with an Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder as well as for other students.