

Chronic Health Conditions

The Centers for Disease Control reports that 1 in 10 Americans face major limitations when it comes to day-to-day living, due to one or more chronic conditions.

Chronic health issues are ongoing medical conditions, but may also be cyclical in nature, and the various symptoms may fluctuate from day to day. Chronic health conditions include, but are not limited to: autoimmune disorders, blood disorders, diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, muscular sclerosis, intractable pain, respiratory disorders, and seizure disorders. These conditions become a disability when they begin to disrupt or limit one or more major life activities.

Unless the impairment is neurological in nature, health impairments are not likely to directly affect learning. It is typically the secondary effects of the impairment (i.e. mobility impairments, sensory impairments and possible psychiatric impairments) can have a significant impact on learning. Furthermore, the side effects of medication can have adverse effects on memory, attention, strength, endurance, and energy levels. A student's physical ability will vary; therefore the need for accommodations, as well as the particular accommodations needed, will change.

Applying Universal Design principles

- A syllabus with clear and well organized information regarding readings, test dates, assignment/project deadlines, etc. can help students plan, organize and prioritize requirements.
- Offer multiple ways of demonstrating knowledge, including take-home exams, group or individual presentations, or papers.

Common Accommodations provided in the classroom

- Access to class notes (a note-taker may be utilized to compensate for missed classes)
- Priority registration
- Taped recordings of class lectures
- Attendance flexibility
- Additional time to complete assignments
- Extended time for exams and quizzes
- Availability of lecture notes, learning materials, practice tests, etc., in electronic format
- Accessible parking
- Frequent breaks for snacks, rest, or medication administration