



AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by **difficulties and differences in communication and social interaction across multiple contexts, as well as restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities** (DSM-5). Autistic students, like anyone else, are quite diverse, and have differing needs, strengths, and interests. Additionally, because it is a **spectrum disorder**, the way autism appears in one student may differ greatly from another.

Possible Impacts:

- Difficulty with social cues
- Communication challenges
- Difficulty with emotional regulation
- Repetitive behaviors and/or speech
- Sensory sensitivity
- Specific interests
- Difficulty with transitions

Possible Accommodations and Supports:

- Maintain open communication with students about their learning needs and encourage open discussion with you about the challenges they face academically
- Extended time and/or a reduced distraction environment on exams/quizzes
- Notetaking support
- Use of laptop for notetaking
- Assignment due date modification
- Disability related absences/late arrivals
- Presentation materials provided ahead of the class
- Lecture recording
- Occasional breaks to stand or leave class
- Allow student to raise hand to participate
- Peer coaching

