

NOT ALL GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE.

Understanding LD

Info about **Learning Disabilities** and strategies for success

LD Info

Learning disabilities are a result of a difference in the wiring of the brain, often in a specific processing area, that can cause difficulty with specific learning tasks, such as reading, writing, and math.

People with learning disabilities may be excellent observers of nonverbal behavior and may be strong experiential learners.

“Learning disability” is a general term; there are many different types of learning differences that fall into this category. Some common types are:

- **reading** disabilities (such as dyslexia)
- **written language** disabilities (such as dysgraphia)
- **math** disabilities (dyscalculia)
- **auditory and/or visual processing** disabilities
- **nonverbal** disabilities (includes difficulty with visual-spatial, intuitive, organizational, and other processing functions).

Teaching the Student with LD

Although all students are different, here are some things to try:

- **Use multiple modes of delivery.** Many students with learning disabilities have a slower processing speed. Using multiple modes of delivery will help students maximize their learning strengths. Use of notes, handouts, and other materials for the student to refer to after class is helpful. Some students may really excel at group discussions, while others would much prefer an impromptu writing prompt. Options help students demonstrate their knowledge.
- **Encourage scheduled, structured study breaks, along with the consistent use of an electronic or paper planner.** Breaking up study time into small chunks of time will allow for greater synthesis and recall. Planning, both long- and short-term, and perhaps even by the hour, is important in helping students keep on track.
- **Encourage the use of resources.** Many textbooks have an online component, many computers have built-in screen readers; LC has tutors, a writing center and a math skills center. -There are many resources to try depending on a student’s needs. We always encourage students to talk with their professors and use office hours.

Resources for further information

Visit these websites for more info:

<http://www.nclld.org>

<http://www.studygs.net>

<http://www.ldpride.net>

http://www.lclark.edu/offices/student_support_services/