

Classroom Assistance: Attention Deficit Disorders

What is an Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD / ADHD)?

According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV), ADD / ADHD is characterized by a "persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity or impulsivity that is more frequent and severe than is typically observed in individuals at a comparable level of development."

Suggested best practices for students with an Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD/ADHD)

- ✓ Provide students with a lecture outline and try to follow it closely.
- ✓ Supply students with copies of your presentation notes and overheads.
- ✓ Keep distractions to a minimum.
- ✓ Allow students to sit near the front of class
- ✓ Allow a break during long lectures.
- ✓ Write important dates on the board and allow time for students to copy it.
- ✓ Facilitate the use of student note-taking aids if they are eligible.
- ✓ Allow additional time for overheads or board work to be copied.
- ✓ Be open to students using a recording device for lectures.
- ✓ Encourage students to use extended time or less distracted area for testing if it is one of their approved accommodations.

Not all of the above strategies are applicable to each student with the particular listed disability. Instructors should work with students on an individual basis.