



FAST FACTS

Learning disability is a generic term that refers to a heterogenous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning or mathematical abilities, or of social skills.

If you suspect that you have a learning disability...

What is a learning disability?

Learning disability is a generic term that refers to a heterogenous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning or mathematical abilities, or of social skills. More specifically, a learning disability is understood to be the inability to perform academically at an expected level based on the person's overall intellectual ability.


Learning disabilities can be lifelong conditions that, in some cases, affect many parts of a person's life: school or work, daily routines, family life and sometimes even friendships and recreation. In some people, many overlapping learning disabilities may be apparent. Other people may have a single isolated learning problem that has little impact on other areas of their lives.

What assistance is available at Carnegie Mellon?

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Carnegie Mellon makes great efforts to provide physical and programmatic campus access to everyone. Individuals with documented disabilities may be eligible to receive services/accommodations for **Carnegie Mellon's Office of Disability Resources (ODR)**.

To access services/accommodations, individuals must first refer themselves to the Office of Disability Resources and provide adequate documentation of the disability. ODR may be able to provide provisional accommodations while you work to obtain the needed documentation. **The first step in this process is to complete and return the Voluntary Disclosure of Disability Form which can be found on ODR's website: cmu.edu/disability-resources.** Please note the ODR does not initiate accommodations without a specific written request from an individual with a disability.



If you suspect that you have a learning disability

Below are samples of some common reasonable accommodations that may be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities:

- Alternative text format
- Additional class notes
- Extended time – this can be for in-class assignments and exams
- Alternative testing arrangements
- Reduced-distraction testing environment
- Enlarging of materials
- Use of dictionaries and calculators for in-class assignments and tests
- Barrier removal and access
- Assistive technology as appropriate

Please note that accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis. Students should contact ODR as early in the semester as possible, since any accommodation put in place cannot be retroactive.

For more information on services to students with disabilities contact:

Catherine Getchell
getchell@cmu.edu
Phone: 412-268-6121
or
access@andrew.cmu.edu
or cmu.edu/disability-resources

Statement of Accessibility

Carnegie Mellon University makes every effort to provide physical, digital, and programmatic campus access to all events and information within the Carnegie Mellon community for students and visitors to our campus.

Carnegie Mellon University
Student Academic Success

cmu.edu/student-success