

Research indicates that students with Autism tend to experience greater challenges in a University setting than other neurodiverse populations. Thus we aim to raise awareness and promote supports for students on the autism spectrum.

Neurodiversity:

- Contributes to the campus culture and community.
- Strengthens our academic mission.
- Broadens diversity on campus.

Duke Diversity Statement

Duke aspires to create a community built on collaboration, innovation, creativity, and belonging. Our collective success depends on the robust exchange of ideas—an exchange that is best when the rich diversity of our perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences flourishes. To achieve this exchange, it is essential that all members of the community feel secure and welcome, that the contributions of all individuals are respected, and that all voices are heard. All members of our community have a responsibility to uphold these values.

Contact Us

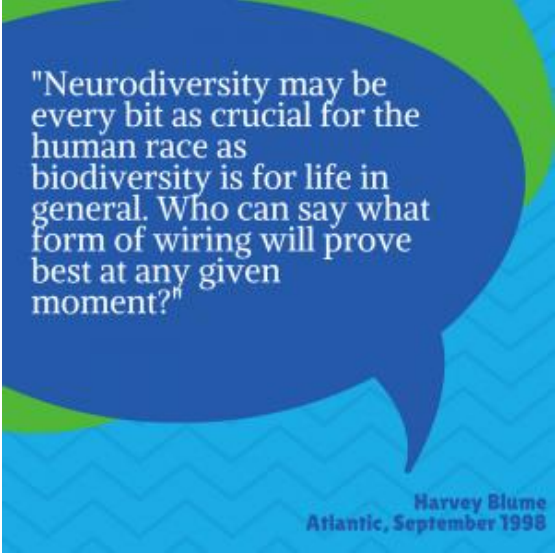
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Neurodiversity at Duke

Neurodiversity is an inclusive term that emphasizes the abilities of people with brain differences that are distinct from what is considered “normal.”

As a social justice movement, neurodiversity aims to recognize the strengths and unique challenges of those with autism, ADHD, and other neurological differences.





"Neurodiversity may be every bit as crucial for the human race as biodiversity is for life in general. Who can say what form of wiring will prove best at any given moment?"

Harvey Blume
Atlantic, September 1998

Tips for Faculty

- Clearly define course requirements and expectations using concrete and direct language.
- Supplement oral directions with written directions when revising assignments or dates.
- Consider providing instructions via multiple methods (verbal, written, visuals).
- Consider requesting a follow-up email to ensure agreement.
- Consider alternatives to group work or provide clearly defined roles within the group.
- Be aware that sensory overstimulation may affect students (noisy labs, fluorescent lighting).

Neurodiversity Connections

Who we are

Neurodiversity Connections is currently composed of faculty, staff, and administrators. We welcome all interested members of the Blue Devil community to join us. Members include representatives from:

- Academic Resource Center
- Career Center
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- DukeReach
- Student Disability Access Office
- Student Health
- Sanford School of Public Policy

What we do

Presentations to faculty, staff and students

Consult in difficult situations

Connect students with each other

Help with referrals to appropriate resources on campus

Potential features of Autism

Strengths

- Unique perspectives and problem-solving abilities
- Logical decision makers
- Attention to detail

Communication challenges

- Difficulty explaining oneself
- Atypical eye contact
- Tangential or repetitive conversation
- Literal understanding of language

Social challenges

- Difficulty interpreting nonverbal cues
- Difficulty maintaining conversation
- Difficulty understanding the motives and perceptions of others