

## **Disability Types**

### **Physical Disabilities**

There are many areas of disability that fall into this category. These include but are not limited to persons with:

- repetitive strain injuries (tendinitis, carpal tunnel syndrome)
- chronic pain conditions (back, neck, shoulder) usually as a result of an injury
- paraplegia, quadriplegia
- cerebral palsy
- muscular dystrophy (and related dystrophies)
- multiple sclerosis (and related sclerosi)
- temporary disabilities usually as a result of injury

### **Blindness and Visual Impairment**

People in this category of disability fall under the CNIB guidelines; that is a range of 10 percent vision or less or 10 degrees field of vision or less. Eye conditions can be caused by a number of factors such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachment, retinitis pigmontosa (tunnel vision), and nerve damage.

### **Deaf, Deafened, and Hard of Hearing**

There are many reasons for loss of hearing. They can range from deafness at birth or from an illness as a small child, to progressive hearing loss due to a congenital problem, to accidents, to exposure to excessive noise, to aging.

### **Acquired Brain Injury**

The most common cause of an acquired brain injury is a motor vehicle accident. Other injuries, for example, can result from not wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle or motorcycle or using in-line skates, a fall from a height, being struck in the head, or a brain tumor or aneurism.

### **Chronic Medical Disabilities**

There are many types of chronic medical conditions which may interfere with one's ability at university, these include, but are not limited to:

- Crohn's Disease
- Arthritis
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Aids

- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Epilepsy
- Migraine Headaches
- Heart Condition
- Fibromyalgia

### **Mental Health Conditions**

There are a number of conditions that fall under this category and they vary from a permanent psychiatric condition to a less permanent condition which, nevertheless, can interfere with a person's ability to concentrate on their school work. The following list is not exhaustive:

- Manic Depression (Bi-polar Disorder)
- Depressive Disorders
- Schizophrenia
- Paranoid Disorders
- Anxiety Disorders
- Phobias
- Anorexia and Bulimia
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

### **Specific Learning Disability (SLD or LD)**

A **Specific Learning Disability** (SLD or LD) is an ongoing condition characterized by a significant impairment in information processing that is attributed to an underlying neurological dysfunction, rather than external or environmental factors. It is characterized by academic ability that is significantly below that expected given an individual's age, measured intelligence, and level of education. Because intellectual or cognitive ability must measure within the average to above average range of ability, individuals with specific learning disabilities are not 'slow learners'.

### **Attention-deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**

**Attention-deficit Hyperactivity Disorder** (ADHD) is a developmental disorder characterized by developmentally inappropriate degrees of inattention, overactivity, and impulsivity. These often arise in early childhood; are relatively chronic in nature; and are **not** readily accounted for on the basis of gross neurological, sensory, language, or motor impairment, developmental disability, or severe emotional disturbance. These difficulties are typically associated with deficits in rule-governed behaviour and in maintaining a consistent pattern of work performance over time.

*Disability Services Department  
Old Main Building Room 1631  
250.828.5023  
dso@tru.ca*