

PLuS Perspectives

Information about College Students with LD

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Facts About College Students with LD

According to a national survey of college freshmen**:

About 6 percent of first-time, full-time freshmen attending four-year institutions in fall 2000 self-reported a disability. The largest group (two in five, or 40% of freshmen with disabilities) reported a learning disability (compared to 16% in 1988). Approximately 45% of those reporting a learning disability were women and 19% were students of color.

Students with LD can be successful in college, but they have to work harder to do so. Compared to other *freshmen* with disabilities, students with LD were the *most* likely to:

Consider majoring in arts and sciences rather than professional/technical areas (20% versus 15%).

Expect that they will need special tutoring or remedial work in
English (28% versus 19%),
reading (18% versus 11%),
mathematics (41% versus 36%)

Value special programs offered by colleges (35% versus 29%).

**Henderson, C. (2001). *College Freshmen with Disabilities: A Biennial Statistical Profile*. American Council on Education.

According to a national survey of young adults with disabilities*:

- More students with LD are graduating from high school: 74.0 % in 2003 compared to 56.1% in 1987.
- Students with LD are more likely to attend a 4 year college: 11.0 % in 2003 compared to 1.1 % in 1987.
- Students with LD are more socially engaged: in 2003, 29.4% participated in a community group and 19.1% completed volunteer/community service compared to 13.2 % and 12.8 % respectively in 1987.

*Wagner, M., Newman, L., Cameto, R., & Levine, P. (2005). *National Longitudinal Transition Study 2: Changes Over Time in the Early Postschool Outcomes of Youth with Disabilities*, SRI International.

"Although the way I process information required input and output methods different from most of my classmates, I expected to learn the same information, and achieve the same end product, as every other student.

My attitude was that teachers provide guidelines for what to learn, but it was my responsibility to take home material presented in class and learn it in my unique style. I didn't expect professors to spoon-feed me, but I did need them as a resource."

*Laura Siegel,
DePaul graduate*



PLuS Perspectives Continued

Mission of Productive Learning Strategies (PLuS) Program

- o To support students with LD by helping them succeed in college while they become educated and independent life-long learners, and
- o To provide opportunities for the DePaul community to better understand the difficulties these students have to overcome.

The number of students with LD in the PLuS program at DePaul continues to grow:

Year	No.
1996 - 1997	61
1997 - 1998	57
1998 - 1999	56
1999 - 2000	60
2000 - 2001	88
2001 - 2002	132
2002 - 2003	146
2003 - 2004	175
2004 - 2005	211
2005 - 2006 (projected)	220

In 2004-05 students with LD were enrolled in all 8 DePaul colleges/schools pursuing 54 different majors.

College	No.	Major	
Commerce	30	Bus. Administration. 1 Commerce 2 Finance 3 Management 3	Marketing 2 Undecided 16 Grad./Entrepreneurship 2 Grad./Bus. Administration. 1
CTI	15	Graphics/Animation 1 Computer Science 5 Information Systems 2	Undecided 2 Grad./E-Comm 1 Grad./Network Security 1 Grad./Info Systems 3
LA&S	119	American Studies 1 Anthropology 2 Art & Art History 6 Biolog. Sciences 7 Communication 14 English 1 Environ. Sciences 2 Geography 1 History 3	Honors Program 2 Internat. Studies 2 Latin Amer. Studies.1 Math. Sciences 1 Philosophy 1 Political Science 6 Psychology 8 Sociology 7 Undecided 53 Grad./Sociology 1
Law	3		Jur. Doctor Day 3
SNL	1		Individualized major 1
Education	33	Early Childhood 5 Elementary Education 10 Physical Education 3 Secondary Education 2 Undecided 7	Grad./LLSI 1 Grad./T&L 3 Grad./Hum. Serv. Couns. 1 Grad./Educ. Leadership 1
Music	3		Music Performance 3
Theater	7	Lighting Design 1 Playwriting 1	Stage Management 1 Theater Studies 3 Theater Technology 1

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