

FACULTY FACT SHEET (**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (**

One of the most important changes in the fifth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5) is to autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The revised diagnosis represents a new, more accurate, and medically and scientifically useful way of diagnosing individuals with autism-related disorders.

People with ASD tend to have communication deficits, such as:

- responding inappropriately in conversations
- misreading nonverbal interactions
- having difficulty building friendships appropriate to their age.

In addition, people with ASD may be:

- overly dependent of routines
- highly sensitive to changes in their environment
- intensely focused on inappropriate items

Again, the symptoms of people with ASD will fall on a continuum, with some individuals having mild symptoms and others having much more severe symptoms. This spectrum will allow clinicians to account for the variations in symptoms and behaviors from person to person. **For more specifics regarding this student, please contact Accommodative Disability Services.**

DSM is the manual used by clinicians and researchers to diagnose and classify mental disorders. © 2013 American Psychiatric Association

Strategies

- Possible alternate means of demonstrating mastery of course objectives without compromising fundamentals of the course
- Possible alternative presentation project
- Clearly defined classroom expectations
- Distraction reduction
- Warning of changes in usual classroom procedure
- Allow a break during class
- Clear and concise oral directions
- Written directions, visual format
- Use of concrete examples
- Use of email for communication

Below is a link for a short video on Spectrum Disorder.

<http://www.researchautism.org/resources/AspergerDVDSeries.asp>