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Learning Disabilities in Health Care Education

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Learning Disabilities in Health Care Education

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Background/Questions Driving Research

- 90% of disabilities amongst medical students are not perceptible
- Increasing trends in nursing students
- Individuals with Disabilities ACT
 - Title II indicates public colleges and universities cannot discriminate against qualified students with disabilities
- Section 504: Rehabilitation ACT of 1973
 - Prohibits discrimination based on mental or physical disability
 - Specific to programs that receive federal financial resources
 - Applies to colleges that receive federal loans and grants
 - Auxiliary aids must be provided to students with disabilities
- Limited faculty & student training
 - Faculty must keep this information private and cannot further inquire about disability
 - Faculty may be sued for failing to make reasonable accommodations
- Perceptual bias
 - Ability to deliver safe patient care stems from supervising faculty and preceptors
 - Practice is continually monitored for safety

Utilization in Vulnerable Populations

Maintain focus on stated outcomes rather than specific skills when considering student accommodations

- It is the voluntary responsibility to disclose disability
- It is encouraged for students to disclose this information with the institution's office of disabilities

Examples of Defined Conditions

- ADHD
- Dyscalculia
- Dysgraphia
- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Executive Functioning
- Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities
- Oral/Written Language Disorder and Specific Reading Comprehension Deficit

Application to Interdisciplinary Care

NLN vision statement

- Achieving diversity and meaningful inclusion in nursing education
- Admitting students of various groups promotes a workforce that represents the population as a whole

Key Techniques/Interventions

- People first language
- Universal design techniques
 - Audio and video format with available captions
 - Graphics & animation, highlighted critical features, supported vocabulary
 - Models of feedback
 - Student autonomy
 - Uncluttered webpages that do not rely on color
 - Accessible JavaScript
- Supporting diverse learning needs
 - Holistic admissions screening
 - Role models and mentors
 - Academic support programs
 - Including technical language competency in curriculum
- VARK
 - Visual, Aural, Read/Write, Kinesthetic
- Access to learning inventories
 - Meyers Briggs
 - Kolb Model of Experimental Learning

Continued Application

- Patient health literacy
- Health care team technical competency
- Continued federal policy advocacy