

Learning About Disabilities

Chronic Illness

Chronic conditions are diseases or illnesses of long duration, which may have random or cyclical acute episodes.



Common Chronic Illnesses

- Arthritis
- Asthma
- Cancer
- Chronic Renal Failure
- Colitis
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Diabetes
- Fibromyalgia
- Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS)
- Celiac's Disease

Along with the diagnosis of one of the above illnesses, the condition must limit one or more life functions in order to be considered a disability.

Statistics

- According to the Center for Disease Control, **one in ten** Americans experience major limitations in everyday living due to chronic conditions.
- Research has shown that almost **one in two** Americans (**133 Million people**) have a chronic condition.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has projected that by 2020, roughly **157 million Americans** will be affected by chronic illnesses.
- Studies have indicated that **60%** of those affected by chronic illnesses are **between the ages of 18 and 64**.

Accommodations

- Reduced Course Load
- Responsive Transportation
- Accessible Parking
- Accessible Classrooms
- Testing Accommodations
- Flexible Attendance Consideration

Since there is no specific list of appropriate accommodations for individuals with chronic illnesses, the best approach includes a meeting between the student and instructor to discuss the course requirements and the student's limitation. Students should also check-in with instructors mid-semester to review their progress and the appropriateness of their accommodations. The student or faculty member may contact the office of Disability Resources for suggestions and assistance.

Creativity, common sense, and individual consideration will lead to the best methods for accommodating students with chronic illnesses.

'The strongest people are not those who show strength in front of us, but those who win battles we know nothing about.'

-Anonymous