NEane Neurodiversity and Assessment Webinar

May 15, 2024 | Attended by Janissa Martinez | Office Associate, Senior | ECTL

What is Neurodiversity? The variation in the human brain regarding sociability, learning, attention, and other mental functions.

- Diverse needs
- Challenges with traditional teaching and assessment methods
- Executive functioning challenges

Adapting assessment – so much of what we assess is writing – what is it that we actually care about?

What are the Neurodivergent elements that could be activated by an assignment such as "writing a 5-10 page research paper on a topic related to consumer behavior".

- Structure – what type of research paper, how many sources
- Examples of topics may be helpful – has this been covered in class?
- Organization – how to structure time so that it is completed on time
- Breakdown of tasks with checkpoints
- Writing, not a multimedia exercise

Fixes:

- Proved an outline for final project
- Make groupwork optional
- Students can help develop rubric and ask how they can demonstrate their learning to you
- Checkpoints throughout the semester to check progress
- Provide options for the final project
- Access to note-taking support for making notes

Best practices for Inclusive Assessment:

- Flexibiltiy in assessment
- Training for faculty and staff on neurodiversity
- Engaging neurodiverse students and seek out their feedback
- Review and adaption of methods

Resources:

[What are Executive Function Challenges?](#)

[The UDL Guidelines](#)

[Best Practices for Supporting Neurodivergent Students](#)