



FEDORA 2011

Modern Times: Counselling students in the 21st century

*Student related difficulties associated with Aspergers Syndrome
- and examples of initiatives to enhance academic learning*





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- 1. The core symptoms of Aspergers Syndrome**
 - 2. Examples of student related difficulties**
 - 3. Examples of supportive initiatives to enhance academic learning**



The core symptoms of Aspergers Syndrome most relevant in relation to education

- * _____
- › **Severe impairment in social interaction**
- › **All-absorbing and narrow interest**
- › **A great need for structured surroundings**
- › **Concrete thinking**
- › **Normal intelligence**



Examples of student related difficulties experienced by university students with AS



- _____
- › **Problems keeping the general view on the study programme**
- › **Problems planning and structuring the daily studies of a degree programme**
- › **Problems understanding the university culture and the specific degree programme culture**
- › **Problems prioritising the curriculum and select the relevant**
- › **Problems attending class**
- › **Problems profiting from work in study groups**
- › **Problems in relation to Exams**
 - › **Written Assignments/Exams - Oral Presentations/Exams**



Examples of supportive initiatives to enhance academic learning

- * _____
- > **The support offered by C&SC in general:**
- > **Focus:**
 - > development of **academic** learning skills
 - > the process of **development**
 - > **inclusion** in the academic society
- > **Supportive initiatives:**
 - > **Specific** academic support
 - > **General** academic support



Examples of supportive initiatives to enhance academic learning



Examples of specific academic support to AS-students

- › **Professional sparring in relation to texts and assignments**
 - › professional-academic **self-confidence** →
 - › greater **tolerance** for unstructured communication →
 - › greater **profit** from lectures and study groups +
 - › professional academic conversation as a **turn-taking-process** +
 - › basic "**asking-for-help-skills**" =
 - › **better inclusion** in the university programme
- › **Help to decode and understand the culture at the programme institute**
- › **Help to prioritize in the curriculum in a qualified way**
- › **Help to practice strategies to specific exams**



Examples of supportive initiatives to enhance academic learning



Examples of general academic support to AS-students

- › **Help to develop structuring skills**
- › **Help to develop general study skills**
- › **Help to develop structuring skills in relation to academic papers**



Special abilities valued in the academic world



- › **A sharp eye for detail**
- › **Visually strong**
- › **Conscientious and reliable**
- › **Extremely persistent and focused on a narrow field of interest**
- › **Loyal to the truth and not to the social order**



The students with Aspergers syndrome connected to RSC (dep. Aarhus)

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Students connected to the counselling unit

(dep. Aarhus spring 2011): **140**

Students with Aspergers Syndrom: **20**

Gender: **15** male,
5 female



Students with Aspergers Syndrome



> Physics	4
> Computer Science	2
> Math	2
> Linguistic	2

Medicine	1
Economics	1
Law	1
China Studies	1
English	1
Social Studies	1
Theology	1
Molecules in medicine	1
Digital design	1
Business(Eng.&Com.)	1