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)

* 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

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› Physics 4
› Computer Science 2
› Math 2
› Linguistic 2

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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