

Rowan University, Disability Resources

Faculty Fact Sheet- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Definition: A traumatic brain injury's direct effects, which may be long-lasting or even permanent, can include unconsciousness, inability to recall the traumatic event, confusion, difficulty learning and remembering new information, trouble speaking coherently, unsteadiness, lack of coordination and problems with vision or hearing.

Typical Symptoms:

- Headaches, possibly migraines.
- Confusion and disorientation.
- Lightheadedness or dizziness; tinnitus (ringing ears) is also common.
- Blurred vision.
- Fatigue: mental and physical. Sleep is commonly affected by TBI.
- Problems with memory, attention, concentration, and thinking.
- Behavior changes or mood swings.
- Sensitivity to light or sound.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Slurred speech.
- Convulsions or seizures may happen if the TBI is severe.
- Numbness of body or limbs.
- Loss of coordination.

(Please note: not every student with TBI will demonstrate all these symptoms and behaviors at all times, or even at all.)

Strategies:

- Use routines, and remain consistent.
- Promote positive interactions.
- Provide both oral and written instructions; clarify instructions
- For lectures, provide student with an outline or study guide when available
- In grading work, reduce emphasis on spelling and grammatical errors unless it is the purpose of the assignment
- Permit referencing a dictionary or thesaurus for assignments
- Reduce quantity of work required, in favor of quality.
- Avoid placing student in high pressure situations (e.g., short time frames, extensive volume of work; highly competitive)
- Exempt student from reading aloud in front of classmates because of impaired reading skills.

Questions or concerns? Contact: John Woodruff - Disability Resources, ext. 4234 or email /woodruff@rowan.edu