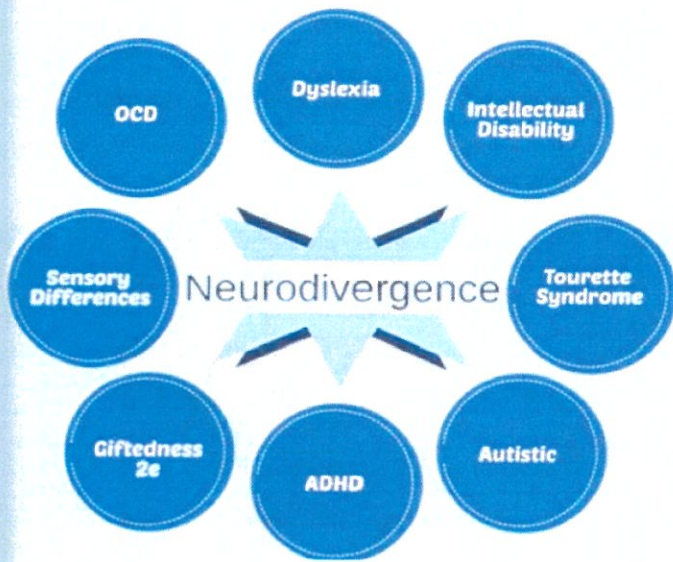


# CLASSROOM DISRUPTION THROUGH THE LENS OF NEURODIVERSITY

## BECOMING A NEURODIVERSITY AFFIRMING PROFESSIONAL

### NEURODIVERSE CONDITIONS:



### TERMS & EMERGING LANGUAGE:

- **Neurodiversity:** Neurodiversity is broadly defined as an approach to learning that suggests diverse neurological conditions appear as a result of normal variations in the human genome.
- **Neurodivergence:** Non-medical term that describes people whose brain differences can impact the way they function, engage and learn.
- **Neurotypical:** Non-medical umbrella term that describes people whose brains function within the standard expectation for their age and culture.
- **Masking:** Describes a form of social survival where Neurodiverse folks hide or shift features of their Neurodivergence in order to better fit into the norms of a particular setting.

- **Neurodiversity Affirming:** A broad term that describes a paradigm shift toward being mindful that processes, approaches and settings are free of ableism, this can include re-examining physical spaces, and viewing Neurodiversity as a strength and asset.
- **Identity First Language:** Emerging research and Neurodivergence Lead Organizations name a trend toward using Identity First Language, instead of Person First Language that we typically use. Ex. Using "Autistic Person" instead of "Person with Autism" is preferred by many in this community. What works for some won't work for all, so like any other identity, asking one's preference is vital.
- **Presentation & Prevalence:** Significant data suggests the correlation between Neurodiversity and gender non-conforming/non-binary people, as well as People of Color and Women. These populations traditionally may not meet the standard expectation or picture we may have of someone in this population.
- **Supports & Stakeholders on Campus:** Disability Support Services, Mental Health & Wellness, Tutoring, Writing Center.

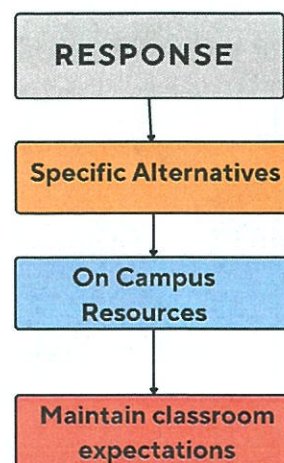
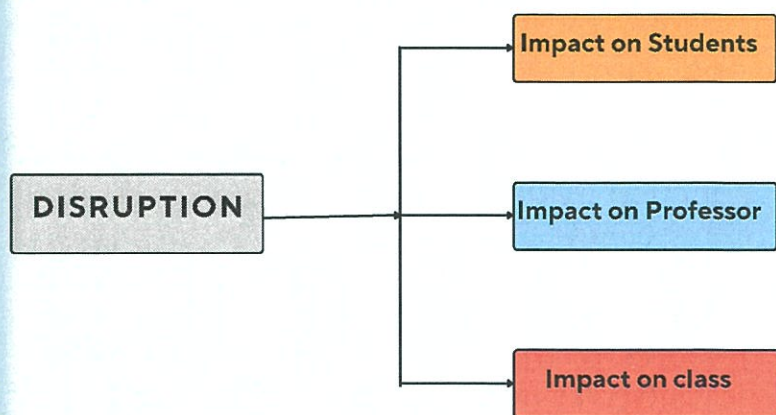


# CLASSROOM DISRUPTION THROUGH THE LENS OF NEURODIVERSITY

BECOMING A NEURODIVERSITY AFFIRMING PROFESSIONAL

## NEURODIVERGENCE & CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- **Sensory Experiences & The Classroom Environment:** Many students with Neurodivergence experience sensory processing challenges. What might be clear, bright lighting for one student might feel pretty overwhelming for another.
- **Clear Boundaries and Expectations:** Many students with Autism and other ND conditions benefit from very clear direction, and benefit from direct communication and clearly identified expectations.



## ARTICLES, READINGS & MORE INFO

Inside Higher Ed: 10 Things Faculty Need to Understand About Autism. Maggie Coughlin, Published 2021

BestColleges - 10 Ways To Support Autistic College Students. Bernard Grant Phd, Published 2022

Harvard Business Publishing: Is Your Classroom Welcoming for Autistic Students? Jane Thierfeld Brown, Published 2022



**BOOKS: UNMASKING AUTISM - DEVON PRICE, PHD**

**ORGANIZATIONS: AUTISM SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK**

**RESEARCH/LEADERS IN THE FIELD: JANE THIERFELD BROWN, JUDY SINGER**