

Neurodiversity @Cornell

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Goal: Create a neurodiversity-friendly Cornell.

This requires increasing acceptance of neurodiversity, along with knowledge about what neurodiversity is, what type of supports help students in different types of classes or interactions with faculty and staff, as well as educating peers to increase the quality of peer-to-peer relationships.

Actions taken:

- Creation of a **working group** with representatives from different offices on campus as well as e-board members of student organizations. It also helps increase visibility of our initiative and educating staff/faculty about neurodiversity. It has 20 members at this point.
- Crafting a **strategic plan** to make sure all our actions are leading us to our goal.
- **Partnership with SDS.** Sarah Bonawitz and Flor collaborate for both identity-based groups, the strategic plan and other initiatives.
- Creating community:
 - **Autism Social Group.** Meets every Wednesday except academic breaks. On average 10 students have attended the meetings; this is the second semester.
 - **Executive Function Community of Practice.** Meets every Thursday except academic breaks. On average 9.5 students attend, this is the first semester.
 - **For both groups, we send an email on Fridays with resources, ideas, events, etc.**
 - **Information on participants is private, only Sarah & I see it.**
 - **Autistic students have created a group chat -- Sarah and I are not there.**
- **Survey of neurodivergent students at Cornell.** We are hoping for many students to share their ideas on what Cornell faculty and staff are doing well and what can be improved. We have 27 responses at this point, and need as many as possible!
- **Increasing knowledge of neurodiversity and advocating for inclusion.** I have been talking to groups, presenting on panels, doing 1:1 consultations with faculty and staff, etc. We also have a

book club, “Neurodiversity Dialogues” where we are discussing a book, aiming to increase acceptance and understanding. (Please reach out if you want to join!)

- **1:1 academic support.** Students are encouraged to meet with me (appointment, drop in, etc.) The Learning Strategies Center is located in the “CCC” building, on a corner of the Ag Quad facing both Bailey Hall and Human Ecology. LSC study space is in 420 CCC, my office is 222-D in CCC.
- **Canvas sites.** One for Faculty/Staff providing them information to support students, and one for students (both are a work in progress)
- **Website (also in progress)**

This initiative is brand new to Cornell, and to make it a success, we want for more people to know about this initiative, for students to answer the survey, reach out to faculty and staff if you want for us to collaborate with them.

We also need for neurodivergent students to engage in all levels of this initiative to ensure their needs lead us — “Nothing about us without us”