

Neurodiversity is an umbrella term which includes conditions such as: dyspraxia, dyslexia, dyscalculia, attention deficit with hyperactivity, Tourette's Syndrome and autism spectrum, currently considered as forms of human diversity that require the adoption of alternative perspectives to promote inclusion and exploit creative potential (Clouder *et al.*, 2020).

Dyscalculia is a condition that affects people's ability to develop numerical thinking, so they may face difficulties in understanding from the most basic concepts, such as differentiating proportions, what is bigger or smaller, to solving mathematical operations. For example, if shown six apples and three oranges, they may have difficulty determining whether there are more apples or oranges.

Some signs for you to recognize if a person has dyscalculia are (Delgado, 2020):

- Uses fingers to count or do basic processes.
- Does not remember basic mathematical processes.
- Has difficulty handling money, such as constantly handing over the wrong amount.
- Has trouble telling time on an analog clock.
- Like dyslexics, has trouble identifying right from left.
- Problems with sequential numbers or patterns.
- Does not understand concepts such as greater than or less than.
- Difficulty associating a word and symbol. For example, that the number 4 is the same as the word four.
- Trouble remembering multiplication tables or other math facts.
- Not being able to judge speed or distance correctly.
- Difficulty with mathematical reasoning and problem solving.

Are you about to graduate from high school and consider yourself a **neurodivergent student**?

This information is for you!

Dyscalculia

Some suggestions to facilitate your academic journey are:

- Establish good communication with your parent(s) and share with them what college environment you would like to be in.
- Explore the University's website and identify the types of services and programs for neurodivergent individuals.
- Identify the support networks that the institution can provide to accompany and support you in your academic difficulties.
- Recognize your competencies and their compatibility with the career of your interest.

Neurodivergent students, including those with dyscalculia, think and learn differently, so they require the use of differential and inclusive educational strategies, in addition to entering areas of knowledge with similar schemes to their ways of thinking.

Clouder L.; Karakus M.; Cinotti, A.; Ferreyra, M. V.; Fierros, G. A.; Rojo, P. (2020). Neurodiversity in higher education: a narrative synthesis. *Higher Education* 80(3): 757–778.

Delgado, P. (2020). *¿Tu alumno tiene problemas con las matemáticas? Puede tener discalculia.*

Available at: <https://observatorio.tec.mx/edu-news/que-es-la-discalculia>

Some areas of study recommended for students with dyscalculia are:

Areas and Majors

Areas	Major
Arts and Humanities	Bachelor in Visual Arts Bachelor in Graphic Design Bachelor in Philosophy Bachelor in Hispanic American Literature Bachelor in Linguistics Bachelor in Music
Social Sciences and Law	Bachelor in Communication Bachelor in Law Bachelor in Journalism Bachelor in Social Work
Education	Bachelor in Language Teaching Bachelor in Pedagogy

General Directorate of Educational and Vocational Counseling

☎ 312 316 11 15, extension 35301 (Monday to Friday)

✉ orienta@ucol.mx

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