

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT LEARNING DISABILITIES

By Dr. Stephanie Lee

Myth: Students who have learning disabilities are “dumb”

Truth: By definition, students with learning disabilities have average or above average “intelligence.” The IQ score is actually comprised of multiple factors however, and individuals with learning disabilities have a profile demonstrating significant strengths and weaknesses rather than a consistent overall “IQ”.

Myth: If you have a learning disability your achievement is poor in all academic areas.

Truth: By definition, people with learning disabilities have an uneven academic achievement profile demonstrating that they have strengths in some academic areas and weaknesses in others. Some may be able to spell quite well but have great difficulty in math and others may do well in math but have great difficulty in spelling.

Myth: The DSP&S department provides more time on exams for all who need it.

Truth: Students must either provide verification of their disability from their doctor indicating that this is an appropriate accommodation for the student in order to have modified exam formats, or they must have completed an LD evaluation documenting the need for extra time on exams