

STRESS FACT SHEET

What is stress?

- Stress is an emotional/bodily reaction to physical, psychological or emotional demands.
- Stress is a fact of life.
 - Managed stress can become useful and healthy (viewing events as challenges).
 - Unmanaged stress can become distressful and unhealthy (viewing events as threats).

What are some of the causes of stress?

- Expectations we place on ourselves.
- Expectations of others.
- Our physical environment -- noise, movement, weather, season changes.
- Our internal environment -- academic pressure, frustration, not enough time, decisions, social life.

What are some symptoms of unmanaged stress?

- Increased heart rate and blood pressure; feeling tense, irritable, fatigued, or depressed.
- Lack of interest and ability to concentrate, apathy.
- Avoidance behaviors: abuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco.

What are ways to manage stress effectively?

- Add balance to life; don't overdo studies or play.
- Know and accept what kind of person you are: strengths and weaknesses.
- Get a thorough physical exam.
- Take "time outs", especially during study.
- Expand your support network, reinforce friendships.
- Exercise regularly.
- Watch your breathing.
- Walk loosely and walk more.
- Learn and practice relaxation skills.
- Study each subject regularly for moderate periods of time.
- Discuss problems with friends, family, dean or counselor.



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