MARGARET H. ROLLINS SCHOOL OF NURSING
N-201 Nursing Care of Special Populations
MENTAL HEALTH NURSING
Class Preparation #1

Directions: Fill in the charts below. Identify what mental health disorders can occur when each neurotransmitter is increased or decreased.

	Functions	Increase	Decrease
Dopamine	Fine muscle movement, integration of emotions and thoughts, decision making, stimulates hypothalamus to release hormones	Schizophrenia, Mania	Parkinson Disease, Depression
Norepinephrine	Mood, attention and arousal, fight or flight in response to stress	Anxiety, Mania, Schizophrenia	Depression
Serotonin	Mood, sleep regulation, hunger, pain perception, aggression and libido	Anxiety	Depression
GABA	Reduces anxiety, aggression, pain perception, anticonvulsant and muscle-relaxing properties	Reduction of anxiety	Anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, mania
Acetylcholine	Plays a role in learning and memory, regulates mood, mania, sexual aggression, stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system	Depression	Alzheimer disease, dementia, Parkinson disease, Huntington's disease

Structures of the Brain

Brain Structure	Function
The limbic System	Includes the hypothalamus, amygdala, thalamus, and hippocampus. In charge of processing your emotions, behaviors, motivations, memory, and your autonomic nervous system like HR, BP, and body temp. Everything works together to process memories, thoughts, or motivation and then tell the body how to react or respond.
Frontal Lobe	Reasoning, judgement, and decision making, executive functions, and voluntary muscle movement
Parietal Lobe	Sensations that you can feel like hot, cold, pain, and vibrations. Proprioception, sensory integration (processes info in ways that you will be able to understand).

Temporal Lobe	Processes information, stores and retrieves memories, understanding language, and managing emotions
Occipital Lobe	Visual processes… spatial processing, color processing, distance and depth, face recognition.