Classroom Assistance: Medical and/or Mobility Impairments

Understanding medical and mobility impairments?

*Medical Impairments* are often caused by such conditions as arthritis, asthma, heart condition, orthopedic limitation, post surgery, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, or seizure disorder.

*Mobility Impairments* are often due to conditions such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury. Students may use crutches, braces, or a wheelchair, and in a few instances, may be accompanied to class by a Personal Attendant.

Suggested Best Practices for Students with Medical / Mobility Impairments

- Allow students to tape record lectures and directions for assignments.
- Have students connect with a classmate to back up their own lecture notes.
- Allow additional time for overheads or board work to be copied.
- Supply the students with outlines of your lecture and/or copies of overheads.
- Encourage students to use extended time or less distracted area for testing if it is one of their approved accommodations.
- Allow the use of a lab partner for laboratory experiences.
- Sit at students’ eye level, if they are in a wheelchair, when conversing whenever possible.
- Wait for students to ask for assistance; don’t assume assistance is necessary.
- Work with students should medical absences arise during the semester, and provide the best point of contact for students to connect with you should they have to miss class.

*Not all of the above strategies are applicable to each student with the particular listed disability. Instructors should work with students on an individual basis.*