

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.