

## **FACULTY AND STAFF HANDBOOK**

### **Mobility and Chronic Health**

#### **Description**

Mobility/Chronic impairments range in severity from limitations on stamina to paralysis. Mobility/Chronic impairments are caused by conditions present at birth, through illness or by physical injury.

Injuries cause different types of mobility impairments, depending on the area of the spine that is affected. Quadriplegia affects the extremities and trunk and which can be caused by a neck injury. Paraplegia affects the lower extremities and the lower trunk and is caused by an injury to the mid-back.

Amputation is the removal of one or more limbs, sometimes caused by trauma or another condition.

Arthritis is the inflammation of the body's joints, causing pain, swelling, and difficulty in body movement.

Back disorders can limit a student's ability to sit, stand, walk, bend, or carry objects. They include, but are not limited to, degenerative disk disease, scoliosis, and herniated disks.

Cerebral palsy is the result of damage to the brain prior to or shortly after birth. It can prevent or inhibit walking and cause a lack of muscle coordination, spasms, and speech difficulty.

Neuromuscular disorders include a variety of disorders, such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, and ataxia that result in degeneration and atrophy of muscle or nerve tissues.

#### **Common accommodations include but are not limited to:**

- Note-takers
- Accessible classrooms/location/furniture
- Alternative ways of completing assignments
- Lab or library assistants
- Assistive computer technology
- Test scribe for in-class examinations

#### **Arranging for Accommodations**

After receiving an Accommodation Letter from the Student Access Office, the faculty member will be contacted by the student to discuss how the accommodations listed in the letter will be arranged.

#### **Suggestions**

The following strategies can enhance learning for students with a mobility and/or chronic health disability.

- Consider the accessibility of your classroom, lab and curriculum early in the semester, and discuss any concerns with the student and, if necessary, with the Disability Services staff.
- Be prepared to change the classroom or building if you are scheduled to teach in an inaccessible location. The University's Room Scheduling office can assist you with this change.
- Familiarize yourself with the building's emergency evacuation plan and assure that it is manageable for students who are physically disabled.
- Allow in-class-writing assignments to be completed out of class, if necessary.
- Allow the use of a tape recorder or, if requested, assist the student in identifying a notetaker.
- In laboratory courses, SAO may request that you team the student with a lab partner.
- If you put materials on reserve, consider providing a separate copy of the material to students.
- If your course includes field trips or off-campus assignments, talk with students about arranging for accessible transportation.