

Physical Disability



Physical Disability (PD) is a condition that affects a person's ability to perform daily activities, such as moving, working, self-care, and communication. This condition can be present from birth (congenital) or may develop later due to accidents, infections, or diseases.

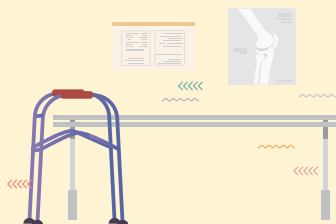
PD can be categorized into two main types:

- **Musculoskeletal Disability:** affects movement and mobility due to issues related to muscle or bones
- **Neuromuscular Disability:** affects controlled movements and coordination, often resulting from neurological conditions

Individuals with PD may have the following conditions:

- Experience persistent fatigue that affects daily activities
- Have difficulties with mobility, coordination, strength, or dexterity
- Have functional difficulties in tasks such as writing, reading, or managing involuntary movements

Diagnosis and Treatment



In Hong Kong, healthcare professionals such as physiotherapists or occupational therapists play a crucial role in diagnosing physical disabilities. With appropriate treatment and the use of assistive technology, individuals can experience significant enhancement in their daily functioning and overall quality of life.

Supporting Students with Physical Disability

University life can present unique challenges for individuals with PD, particularly in social communications, academic performance, and emotion well-being. Helpful tips may include:

Social Communication

- ✓ Be mindful of the walking pace to ensure comfort and ease for each other
- ✓ Choose meeting places with accessible ramps, restrooms, and entrances
- ✓ Engage with wheelchair users at eye level by taking a seated position

Academic Support

- ✓ Allow extended time in examinations (with professional's recommendation)
- ✓ Allow the use of assistive technologies during classes and examinations
- ✓ Ensure access to on-campus welcab service
- ✓ Ensure seating arrangement allow for clear visibility of screens and boards, with easy access and ample space
- ✓ Offer assistance from laboratory and/or library staff as needed
- ✓ Plan field trips to accessible locations
- ✓ Provide height-adjustable tables in teaching venues

Psychological Support

- ✓ Refer to psychological counseling service for students' mental health and adversity coping capability

It is essential to recognize that individuals with PD have unique strengths and capacity. Fostering an inclusive and supportive environment can empower students to pursue their goals with confidence and resources they need.

