



# CAATE

Commission on Accreditation  
of Athletic Training Education

## Navigating Student Accommodations

### Ergonomic Work Spaces

#### Understanding Limitations and Accommodation Needs

Accommodations must be tailored to a student's specific functional limitations and context, aiming to remove barriers to access while maintaining essential program functions and learning objectives.



#### Functional Limitations and Barriers

- **Processing speed challenges:** Students may need more time to read, interpret, or formulate responses.
- **Memory retrieval difficulties:** Trouble with short-term recall or working memory can slow down test-taking or practical decision-making.
- **Executive functioning deficits:** Difficulties with organizing, planning, or shifting attention can delay task completion or multitasking in clinical settings.
- **Fine motor delays or coordination disorders:** May affect ability to complete hands-on tasks efficiently (e.g., taping, suturing).
- **Chronic pain or fatigue:** Can limit endurance, speed, or consistency in clinical tasks or during long exams.
- **Mobility limitations:** May affect ability to move between clinical sites or complete physical tasks in a timely manner.
- **Visual impairments:** May require screen readers, alternative formats, or longer time for visual assessments.
- **Auditory impairments:** Can affect processing of oral instructions or conversations, requiring captioning or note-taking support.
- **Psychological Conditions:** May affect focus, stamina, or reaction time during prolonged tasks or assessments.





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## Navigating Student Accommodations: Ergonomic work spaces

### Ergonomic Accomodations

Adjustments to the environment that reduce physical strain and promote well-being

- changes to physical set-up
- addition or access of equipment
- schedule management



### Accomodations in Clinical Rotations

- **Adjustable equipment:**
  - treatment/evaluation tables, chairs/stools, monitor stands, keyboard trays
- **Specialized input devices:**
  - Alternative keyboard or mouse for documentation, talk to text software (ie Nuance Dragon)
- **Flexible start times**
- **Identify personal space for micro-breaks or to take/make appointments**
- **Provide anti-fatigue matting around treatment and taping tables**



### Accomodations in Clinical Education

- **Adjustable or standing desks**
- **Ergonomic chairs**
  - proper chair height
  - provide lumbar support, armrests, footrests
- **Visual needs**
  - Larger print options on presentations, screen readers, adequate lighting, access to closer seating, provide magnifiers
- **Auditory needs**
  - Closed caption on videos/recordings, space for sign language interpreters
- **Reading impairments**
  - Utilize color-coded outlines/instructions, provide screen reading software

