INTRODUCTION

Classroom furniture is an important and often overlooked consideration in the overall accessibility for classrooms. The purpose of this document is to provide a resource for departments, faculty, and staff who are required to ensure access for students, faculty, and visitors with disabilities to general purpose classrooms at OSU. The following standards were developed using the ADAAG, recommendations in Access for Everyone: A Guide to the Accessibility of Buildings and Sites with References to ADAAG, and through research on current furniture types that meet both the specifications of the ADAAG and work well for users.

NUMBER OF ACCESSIBLE SEATS

Each classroom shall have at least* the following, in addition to requirements in the 2010 ADA Standards:

- 1 – Lumbar Support Chair
- 1 – Bariatric Rated Chair
- 2 – Chairs for interpreters & transcribers, including wall mount (see specifications)
- 1 – Height adjustable table
- Companion chairs/seating shall be provided per 2010 ADA guidelines outlined in sections 221 and 802

* Additional lumbar support chairs, bariatric chairs, and height adjustable tables should be considered in large classrooms/lecture halls. Exact numbers shall be determined with OSU during design.

FURNITURE SPECIFICATIONS

LUMBAR SUPPORT CHAIRS (FIGURE #4)

Users with back injuries may have difficulty sitting for long periods of time, especially in hard non-ergonomic chairs. Sitting in non-ergonomic chairs may exacerbate pain and make it difficult for people with disabilities to utilize the classroom space. Lumbar support chairs should have the following specifications as defined by the Office of Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OHSA)¹:

1. A backrest that conforms to the natural curvature of the spine.
2. Armrests should be soft, chairs without armrests allow for users of larger size (bariatric) to use the same seating.
3. A stable base that can support users up to 300 lbs.
**BARIATRIC CHAIRS (FIGURE #5)**

Users of larger stature need larger seating than is provided in classrooms to be able to participate in classes. Ergonomic chairs without arms provide the necessary size for this. To be rated a bariatric chair the weight capacity should be at least 500 lbs.

**CHAIRS FOR INTERPRETERS/TRANSCRIBERS (FIGURE #6)**

Two chairs for interpreters and/or transcribers with a wall mount for storage shall be provided in all classrooms. The OSU required standard is the:

GLOBALcare Janna folding chair:

- Model GC7609
- Blue vinyl upholstered seat and back cushion
- Black wood finish
- Includes wall bracket for mounting

**WALL MOUNT DESIGN FOR INTERPRETER/TRANSCRIBER CHAIRS**

Wall mounts for the interpreter/transcriber chairs shall be designed and provided with the following specifications:

*Figure #1. Wall mount for Interpreter/Transcriber chairs, Janna folding chairs pictured.*

The wall brackets are provided with each chair already, OSU will need to provide a rail to mount the brackets to, such as the one in the example image Figure #1.
WHEELCHAIR USER SPACES

If writing surfaces are provided to non-accessible spaces, wheelchair user spaces shall have a comparable and accessible writing surface provided. When an element is provided to non-accessible spaces an equivalent element shall be provided to the accessible spaces (ex. power, laptop compatibility, microphones, etc.)

Wheelchair spaces shall have comparable writing surfaces provided. It is preferable to provide multiple options for type of writing surface and seating location. In areas where space allows, tables meeting the 2010 ADA Standards are preferable. In rooms where space does not allow, or in rooms where fixed tablet arm chairs are used, tablets without a chair attached are required, the Fagaleo “Easy Wind Post,” is one example, FIGURE #7. These tablets must meet reach range requirements and operability requirements in the 2010 ADA Standards, and if elements such as power are provided to non-accessible spaces, these elements must be provided at the accessible tablets as well.

TABLE SPECIFICATIONS

For access at a table: Provide at least a 36 inch wide opening for a single wheelchair user (66 inches to accommodate 2 wheelchair users) and at least 19 inch deep space clear of obstructions under the table.

Table height: Where fixed tables are provided, the bottom of the table top should be at 30 inches in height. 2010 ADA Standards require at least 27 inches. The table top must be no higher than 34 inches. Additionally space underneath the table top shall be unobstructed. Provide a minimum 36 inches in width and a minimum 19 inches in depth without obstruction.

Adjustable Tables: There are four kinds of adjustable tables, top-crank adjustable, side-crank adjustable, hydraulic assist and electric. Side-crank tables are preferred because they tend to be sturdier than top-crank tables when electric/hydraulic tables are cost prohibitive or power is not available. In addition, side-crank tables should have moveable cranks, so that they can easily be hidden under the table, which reduces possible breakage, and also do not pose a possible tripping or snagging hazard on clothes or people.

Cranks should be metal instead of plastic to prevent possible breakage and need for more constant maintenance. Cranks should not be removable.

Adjustable tables should not have a crossbar underneath, as this prohibits a wheelchair user from pulling all the way under the table. These tables should be at least 66 inches wide to allow for two users and/or companions, and should be height adjustable from at least 25 inches to 40 inches, see FIGURES #8 and 9.

Figure #2. Adjustable table standards.
Appropriate signs indicating that accessible spaces and furniture are preferred for persons with disabilities shall be provided by OSU. Signs for the interpreter and transcriber chairs shall also be provided. It is the responsibility of the construction manager to arrange for signs to be provided.

Signs for accessible spaces and furniture shall be a blue background with white text, 6 inches high and 4 inches wide, and include the language, “Preferred Seating for People with Disabilities. Do not remove or relocate. Questions? Call: 541-737-4098 Disability Access Services.” Standard accessibility icons should follow.

The interpreter and transcriber chair signs shall be a blue background with white text, 2.5 inches high by 4 inches wide, and include the language, “Interpreter/Transcriber Chair.”

**Figure #3.** Sign standards for accessible spaces and furniture.
EXAMPLES OF ACCESSIBLE FURNITURE

Figure #4
Lumbar Support Chair
Izzy Overture

Figure #5
Lumbar Support Chair Without Arms
Izzy Overture

Figure #6
Interpreter/Transcriber Chair
Janna Folding Chair (GC7609)

Figure #7
Easy Wind Post Tablet Arm
Fagaleo

Figure #8
Crank height adjustable table with lumbar support and oversize chair

Figure #9
Crank height adjustable table
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

KI Torsion on the Go Nesting Chair

IZZY Overture Chairs (PDF)

SurfaceWorks Height Adjustable Tables

Fagaleo Education Seating

The United States Department of Labor, Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OHSA)