

# Wheelchair Mobility

**Department: Independent Living Skills**

**Priority:** core class, high priority for new students with wheelchairs

**Overall purpose of class:**

To assure student safety, comfort and independence

This is a Short term class—2 to 3 sessions at a time in groups of 3—that focuses on both wheelchair acquisition and utilization. The class covers:

- What to look for.
- Safety and mobility.
- Possible need for and types of individual adaptations
- Combination of renting and buying
- Safety for transfers
- Use of ramps
- Acquiring ramps at home
- Making the choice between electric or manual

Each student is given an opportunity to try the electric chairs at the Center.

**Number of classes held per week:**

1 on an as-needed basis

**Optimum class time:**

morning

**Instructor requirements:**

1 Occupational Therapist

**Number of students:**

3 per session

**Student ability range and limitations:**

Students require adequate strength, function and judgment to operate chairs independently.

**Space and Equipment requirements:**

Each student needs their own wheelchair or can be trying one of the Center's chairs. An Accessible building with halls, ramps, a safe practice area including tight corners and doors

Students take this class if they are new to the Center and are in a wheelchair, if they have recently acquired a new chair, and/or if they are interested in obtaining a new chair or type of chair.