Americans with Disabilities Act definition (US EEOC, 2009)
An individual with a disability is a person who:
- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- Has a record of such an impairment;
- Is regarded as having such an impairment; Physical impairment: "Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin, and endocrine."

Minnesota Definition
A person with a disability is any person who:
- Has a physical, sensory or mental impairment which materially limited one or more major life activities;
- Has a record of such an impairment;
- Is regarded as having such an impairment;
- or is discriminated against because of an association with a person with a disability (Minn. Stat. § 363.)

Types of Physical Disabilities
**Neuromotor:** injury to the brain or spinal cord
- muscular weakness, paralysis often a symptom
- education typically requires special equipment, procedures, and accommodations
- examples include: cerebral palsy, Epilepsy, and spina bifida

**Orthopedic and muscoskeletal Disorders:** defects or diseases of the muscles or bones
- ability to move affected
- congenital or after birth
- may cause other disorders, genetic defects, infectious diseases
- examples include: muscular dystrophy, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and scoliosis

**Other**
- wide range of disabilities that might require accommodations
- includes chronic diseases
- examples include: Asthma, HIV/AIDS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Internet Resources
United Cerebral Palsy Association: [www.ucp.org](http://www.ucp.org)
Epilepsy Foundation of America: [www.efa.org](http://www.efa.org)
Spina Bifida Association: [www.spinalcord.org](http://www.spinalcord.org)
The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America: [www.aafa.org](http://www.aafa.org)
National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: [www.cff.org](http://www.cff.org)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society: [www.nmss.org](http://www.nmss.org)
National Organization for Rare Diseases: [www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org)
National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: [www.nofas.org](http://www.nofas.org)
Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center: [www.nupoc.northwestern.edu](http://www.nupoc.northwestern.edu)
Adrian's Adaptive Closet: [www.adrianscloset.com](http://www.adrianscloset.com)