

Ergonomic Guidance for Computer Users

The below information can help you set up your work area to promote proper posture while using a computer.

- The height of the chair and the keyboard, mouse, & monitor are interdependent.
- 1. Adjust chair height to allow your heels to be on the floor, while your lower back is against the backrest and your knees are at about a 90-degree angle.
 - o An underdesk keyboard tray or a foot rest can help.
- 2. Adjust the seat pan (the part you sit on) to provide as much thigh support as possible.
- 3. Keep your shoulders relaxed and your elbows at about a 90-degree angle (your wrists should <u>not</u> be above your elbows).
- 4. While typing, your fingers should be below your wrist.
 - Retracting the back "feet" on the keyboard and a palm rest can help.
- 5. Adjust the monitor so the top is at your eye level and directly in front of you.
- 6. Pull the bottom of the monitor towards you, to help avoid leaning in.
- 7. Place the keyboard in line between you and the monitor.
- 8. Keep frequently used items (e.g. phone, stapler, pen, etc.) within easy reach, and avoid twisting.
 - o During phone calls, use a headset (wired or wireless) or a speaker phone.
- 9. Take micro-breaks (30-30-30): every 30-minutes, take a 30-second "break", and focus on something 30-feet away. This will help to avoid sitting for extended periods of time, and benefits your eyes by focusing on distant objects.

Recommendation for laptop users:

• Use a separate keyboard and mouse (#10), and raise the top of your laptop's monitor (#11) to your eye level. The idea is to create separation between the keyboard/mouse and the monitor.

Multiple Monitors:

- Limit how often or how far you need to turn your neck.
 - How often: Position the primary monitor directly in front of you with the other monitor to the side (like a document holder), limiting the gap between them
 - o How far: If you use both monitors about equally, the gap should go in the middle with the monitors angled towards you.
- Set the top of the monitors to the same height (see #5 above).

If using a computer while standing:

- All of the above points, except those directly related to a chair, are appropriate.
- Additionally, a soft surface (e.g. shoes, rug, anti-fatigue mat, etc.) and sometimes placing a foot on a higher level (e.g. footrest, stool, etc.) can help to limit discomfort.

