

# Service Animal Policy

(from the Department of Justice website;

<https://www.nps.gov/deto/planyourvisit/upload/Service-Animal-Policy-DOJ.pdf>)

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. **Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.**

## What is a Disability?

In order to qualify for a reasonable accommodation under the FHA, 504, or the ADA, the student must meet the statutory definition of having a "disability,"

"Disability" is defined as a physical or mental condition or impairment that is medically recognizable, and diagnosable, and that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities. These limitations may include: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and learning. A person is substantially limited in major life activities if the individual is unable to perform the activity, or is significantly restricted as to the manner in which he or she can perform that activity when compared to the average person. Acceptable documentation of disability can be from either a medical or mental health provider. It should verify the disability as well as the need for an assistance animal.

## What is a Service Animal?

A "Service animal" performs functions and tasks that the individual with a disability cannot perform for him or herself. Service animals are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. These tasks include, but are not limited to: guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or sound, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

## Approved Animal

An "approved animal" is an assistance animal that has been granted as a reasonable accommodation under this policy.

## Owner

The "owner" is the student or other covered person who has requested the accommodation and has received approval to bring the "approved animal" on campus.

## Owner's Responsibilities for having an approved animal on campus

1. The owner is responsible for assuring that the Approved Animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the College or cause difficulties for other members of the College community. The owner and approved animal are both responsible for abiding by the conduct policies outlined in the Student Handbook. The owner may be charged with a violation of student conduct for inappropriate behavior of an approved animal.
2. **Service** Animals may travel freely with their owner throughout College facilities. Therapy or emotional support animals must be contained within the approved student's privately assigned residential area (room, suite, and apartment) at all times, except when transported outside the private residential area in an animal carrier or controlled by leash or harness. When outside the residence, the owner of an assistance animal shall carry proof that the animal is an approved animal.
3. The service animal must be vaccinated and licensed as required by state law and/or local ordinance.
4. Service animal must be restrained on a leash at all times, unless for specific circumstances, at which time must be responsive to voice commands.
5. The service animal should be under the full control of the student, and always in close proximity to the student.

**NOTE:** Only Service Animals have access to non-residential College owned facilities (except restricted areas).

**Service animals will be given access to ADA-appropriate buildings/rooms unless:**  
**(1) the animal is out of control and its handler does not take effective action to control it; (2) the animal is not housebroken (i.e., trained so that, absent illness or accident, the animal controls its waste elimination); or (3) the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level by a reasonable modification to other policies, practices and procedures.**