

Service Dogs: Faculty Guide

Service dogs on campus and in classrooms

Service dogs are allowed on campus and in classrooms. When it is not obvious what service the dog provides, college officials may ask only two questions:

1. *Is the service dog required because of a disability?*
2. *What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?*

May I ask about the nature of the student's disability?

No. It is illegal to ask a person to disclose what their disability is or the reason they have a service dog.

Are animals other than dogs recognized as service animals?

No. Under the law, only dogs (or in some instances, miniature horses) are recognized as service animals.

What is considered work or tasks that the dog performs?

The work or tasks performed by a service dog must be directly related to the disability.

- Guiding people who are blind
- Alerting deaf students
- Reminder to take prescribed medication.
- Alerting a seizure, or glucose
- Pulling a wheelchair

The work or task must be active not passive. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks. Such animals are deemed 'Therapy Dogs' and require an Authorized Accommodation Letter from the DRC. Please refer the student to Disability Resources Center for further guidance.

What about allergies or being afraid of dogs?

These are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals. It may be possible to accommodate by requesting students use different locations within the classroom or take a different section of the course.

Can I ask for the service dog to be removed from the classroom?

A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless:

1. The dog is behaving in a disruptive manner by barking, growling, whimpering, running around, or soliciting social attention through behavior uncharacteristic of a service animal; or
2. The dog is not housebroken or clean; or
3. The presence of the dog poses a direct threat to the health or safety of other persons that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services; or

If you have any of the above 3 concerns, you may request that the service dog (not the student) be removed from class. Refer the student to the DRC for further guidance. Contact the DRC directly if you need support.

The student is responsible for:

Having a current dog license, keeping the dog clean and pest free; in a harness or on a leash unless either the student is unable because of a disability to use a harness or leash, or the use of a harness or leash would interfere with the service animals performance of work or tasks; and any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, staff, visitors, and/or property.