

## Service Animals

The ADA defines a service animal as “any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.” These service animals assist the person with a disability in the activities of daily living.

### Responsibilities of the Handler/Partner:

Students with disabilities who utilize a service animal on campus are strongly encouraged, but not required, to register with the Office of Disability Services in X-148. The cost of care and responsibility for the well-being of a service animal are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times.

Students accompanied by a service animal may be asked what tasks or functions the animal has been trained to perform and to give verbal assurance of the animal's training. Service animals on campus must meet all mandated State and local regulations for the presence of animals in public places (vaccinations, I.D. tags, etc.), must be in good health, and must be under the full control of the partner with a disability at all times.

### Possible Restrictions:

There are instances where a service animal may be restricted such as a clinical practicum in nursing and health services programs, in food service programs, or in laboratories that can pose a safety risk. These exceptions would need to be considered individually to determine whether the dog poses a possible danger, and if other reasonable accommodations can be provided.

A service animal may be excluded from campus when that animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others. When a service animal is determined to be out of control as reported by students, staff, or administration, the infraction will be treated on an individual basis. Consequences may include but not be limited to muzzling a barking animal, refresher training for both the animal and the handler/partner, or exclusion from campus facilities.

### Public Etiquette by Students:

- Do not pet a service animal. It distracts them from the task at hand, and service animals are very protective.
- Do not feed a service animal.
- Do not deliberately startle a service animal.
- Do not separate or attempt to separate a partner/handler from his/her service animal.

- Do not hesitate to ask a student if she/he would like assistance if the team (handler and his/her service animal) seems confused about a direction to turn, an accessible entrance, entrance to an elevator, etc.

#### Conflicting Disabilities:

It is common for persons to have a disability that precipitates an allergic reaction to animals. Persons with an asthmatic/allergy/medical complaint should direct that concern to the ODS Coordinator/Associate Coordinator. The person making the complaint must show medical documentation to support that complaint. Action will be taken to consider the needs of both persons and to resolve the problem as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.