Service Animal Policy

The Americans Disabilities Act Amended Act defines a service animal as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The rule states that other animals, whether wild or domestic, do not qualify as service animals. Dogs that are not trained to perform tasks that mitigate the effects of a disability, including dogs that are used purely for emotional support, are not service animals. The final rule also clarifies that individuals with mental disabilities who use service animals that are trained to perform a specific task are protected by the ADAAA. If they meet this definition, animals are considered service animals under the ADAAA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government. (www.ada.gov/regs2010/factsheets/title_2_factsheet.html)

The college reserves the right to require documentation from the appropriate agencies and/or professionals to determine the basis of a “service animal.”

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that individuals with a disability cannot perform for themselves. Some, but not all, service animals wear special collars and harnesses.

The service animal must be permitted to accompany individuals with a disability to all areas of the campus. Individuals with a service animal may not be segregated from other students.

The care and supervision of the animal is solely the responsibility of his or her owner. The college will not provide any care, food or special location for a service animal. While doing everything possible to educate students about service animals, the college cannot be responsible for others' reactions to the service animal (i.e. petting the animal, talking to the animal, etc.)

The animal must be clean, well-behaved, and under the owner's control at all times while on campus. The college reserves the right to exclude a service animal when the animal's behavior has posed a direct threat to the safety and health of others or when it continually disrupts a classroom, laboratory, or clinical situation/setting.