

McDaniel College Student Accessibility and Support Services Guidelines and Procedure: Service Animal Accommodations

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Student Accessibility and Support Services (SASS) offers housing accommodations to students with disabilities when appropriate. A disability is defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act as “a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.” Major life activities may include, but are not limited to seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, thinking, concentrating, reading, communicating, etc. A temporary impairment may include a severe illness, injury, or condition caused by a traumatic event.

Service Animals are defined by the ADA as an animal that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) the animal performs must directly be related to addressing the barrier presented by the individual’s disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets. Any animal whose sole purpose is to provide emotional support, companionship, or comfort does not qualify as a service animal. Service animals in Maryland may only be a dog or a miniature horse.

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, two questions may be asked of the student:

1. Is the service dog required because of a disability?
2. What disability-related work or task is the dog trained to perform?

Service Animal Registration Requirements:

1. Submit the [online accommodation registration form](#) with SASS
2. Complete intake meeting with SASS (highly recommended but not required). Students may benefit from accessing additional resources or accommodations to support the student.
3. Once processed through SASS, students will be required to submit the following to the Office of Residence Life if residing on campus:
 - a. Veterinary documentation to have the animal reside on campus
 - b. A current license number for the service animal (per state/county regulations)
 - a. Photograph of the animal

Service Animal Guidelines:

- The service animal is not required to wear a vest, patch, or special harness.
- The service animal must remain within the student handler's control and shall have a harness or leash on.
- The service animal may travel in all areas of campus where the student is also permitted to go. Exceptions may be made for specific areas, such as laboratories, medical facilities, or mechanical rooms, where it may be deemed unsafe for a service animal. In such cases, SASS will work with the student to provide reasonable accommodation to assure the student has equal access.
- McDaniel College reserves the right to exclude a service animal from campus if any of the following occur:
 - The service animal is out of control and the student does not take effective action to control it.
 - The service animal is not housebroken.
 - The service animal poses or has posed a direct threat to the health and safety of the individual or others.
 - The service animal is physically ill.
 - Admission of the service animal would fundamentally alter a college program.