

SERVICE DOGS

at Seattle Central College

Service dogs are welcome at Seattle Central College. The Americans with Disabilities Act and Washington State Revised Code define a service dog as one individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.

Service Dogs are Allowed

Generally, colleges must permit service dogs to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where members of the public are allowed. For students this includes the classroom, restrooms, hallways, library, dining areas, and most other areas where students are allowed. Exceptions to service dog admittance may include areas where a sterile or sanitary environment is required, such as food preparation areas.

How to Know if it is a Service Dog

Here are guidelines to check if a dog is a service animal, when it is not obvious.

1. staff may ask two questions:
 - a. is the dog a service dog required due to a disability.
 - b. what work or task has the dog been trained to perform.
2. Staff may **not ask**:
 - a. about the person's disability
 - b. for medical documentation
 - c. for identification/certification for the dog
 - d. that the dog demonstrate its work or task.
3. Also be aware that:
 - a. Service dogs are not required to wear identifying vests and do not need to be certified as service dogs.
 - b. The ADA does not place any restrictions on the breed of dog that may be trained as a service dog.
 - c. A student/handler does not need an accommodation for the service dog to be in the classroom,

Requirements for Service Dogs on Campus

- Service dogs must be licensed and vaccinated according to local ordinances and state regulations.
- The service dog must always be under the care and control of its handler. Under the ADA, service dogs must be harnessed or leashed, unless this interferes with the dog's work. In that case, the handler must maintain control through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- The service dog must be house broken.

When May Service Dogs be Excluded

- If the dog is out of control and the student/handler does not take effective action to control the dog, or if the dog is not house broken.
- If it does not meet the other requirements.
- Areas where a sterile or sanitary environment is required.
- Note: annoyance or distraction to staff or students is **not** a valid reason to exclude a service dog.

Additional Helpful Information

- Staff are not required to provide care, food or supervision for a service dog and should refrain from direct interaction with the dog as this may interfere with the task or work being performed.
- The student/handler is required to clean up after the dog.
- If other students or faculty have allergies to dogs, both the individual with the allergy and the student with the service dog will need to be accommodated. the Accessibility Resource Center can assist in coordinating these accommodations.

Getting Help

In order to create a welcoming environment for the person using a service dog, it is recommended that staff direct any questions or concerns to the Accessibility Resource Center. Students using service dogs may also be referred to the Accessibility Resource Center if they need additional services or classroom accommodations.

The ARC can be contacted by:

- In person at BE 3103
- Phone at (206) 934-4183
- Email at ARC.Central@seattlecolleges.edu

Employees

Employees who require use of a service dog should contact Human Resources at HR.Central@seattlecolleges.edu.

Resources:

ADA Requirements- Service Animals, US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division Disability Rights Section, [ADA requirements for service animals](#).

ADA.Gov Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights Section, [Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals](#).