

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College College Policy: Service Animals on Campus

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC) acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or visitors with disabilities to be accompanied at SWTC by a service animal as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requiring service animals should register with Disability Services on campus to facilitate the student's use of the service animal at school.

All other animals are prohibited on campus, in classrooms, on SWTC property, Foundation property, and Real Estate Foundation property unless expressly permitted by SWTC or permitted by SWTC policy regarding Assistance Animals in REF-Owned Student Housing.

Employees requesting the use of a service animal must make the request to the Chief Human Resource Officer who will review all employee service animal requests in accordance with state and federal employment law.

Definition of Service Animal

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

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 for the purposes of this definition.

Access to Areas of a Public Entity

Visitors with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of SWTC open to public access. Students with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas where SWTC students are allowed to go.

Surcharges

The School will not require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets. However, the School has a policy that allows charging for destruction of school property in other situations and may charge the service animal's owner for any damage or harm caused by the service animal in the same manner as owners of animals that are not service animals would be charged under the policy for damage caused by those animals. Further, any liability for harm or injury to other students, staff, or visitors which is caused by a service animal is the responsibility of the owner of the service animal.

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Removal of a Service Animal

SWTC will ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from SWTC if any one of the following circumstances occurs:

1. The animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it;
2. The animal is not housebroken;
3. The animal's presence would "fundamentally alter" the nature of the service, program, or activity; or
4. The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Animal Under Handler's Control

A service animal must be under the control of its handler. The handler may be the individual with the disability or another individual. The service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.

Care or Supervision

The School is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, including walking the animal or responding to the animal's need to relieve itself.

Vaccination and Licensing

Individuals with disabilities using service animals must comply with all vaccination and licensing requirements imposed by state and local law.

Service Animals in Training

Service animals in training must be wearing a harness or leash and a special cape. A service animal trainer may be required to produce a certification or other credential issued by a school for training service animals that the animal is being trained to be a service animal. Service animals in training are allowed in areas open to public access and are subject to the same rules as Service Animals set forth above.

Legal Ref: ADA Regulations
 Wis. Stat. s. 106.52

SWTC reserves the right to amend this Policy as circumstances require.