

# CP 3-12: Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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COLLEGE PROCEDURE: CP 3-12

APPROVED: July 29, 2024

EFFECTIVE: August 1, 2024

REVIEWED: July 29, 2024

NEXT REVIEW DATE: August 2027

REFERENCES: BP 3-12; Montana State University Disability Services (2024)

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:

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Dawson Community College shall provide reasonable and appropriate modifications to ensure access to classrooms, living space and other campus physical spaces required of a college student, and will provide reasonable and appropriate support to ensure the beneficial use of such spaces.

## **Academic and Housing Accommodations:**

The College will have a designated Student Disability and Accommodation Services coordinator. The individual so designated should be a leader from within an academic or appropriate student services department. The person so designated will work to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students requesting them as part of their existing job description.

Students requesting academic accommodation(s) must return documentation to the above mentioned coordinator. This documentation must:

- Attest that the student is under the care of a physician or licensed mental health professional (Provider);
- Describe the medical necessity of such accommodation(s) as described by the Provider;
- Include recommended accommodation(s) from the Provider, and
- Be signed by the Provider.

## **Assistance Animals:**

The College recognizes that some student accommodations may include the use of assistive animals. The College supports the use of assistance animals in college facilities, buildings and grounds consistent with the following guidelines, College policies and procedures, and state and federal law:

### **Service Animals:**

A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks directly related to an individual's disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Such tasks may include guiding an individual with a vision impairment, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items, among other tasks. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals.

Service animals may accompany an individual with a disability or an individual training the animal in public facilities and accommodations, or in places in which the general public is

invited as long as the animal and owner meet the requirements identified in this procedure. Service animals may be restricted from areas where they would fundamentally alter a program or activity; the College has a legitimate safety concern; or any other place that is consistent with state and federal law.

Students with service animals are not required to provide medial documentation, however the College recommends contacting the Student Disability and Accommodation Services coordinator.

### **Emotional Support Animals:**

Emotional support animals are animals prescribed by a physician or licensed mental health provider to provide therapeutic benefit to individuals with disabilities by alleviating one or more symptoms of a disability. Emotional support animals help with depression, anxiety, phobias, etc., but do not have specialized training to perform tasks that assist an individual with disabilities.

Emotional support animals are only permitted in student rooms in campus housing facilities after receiving an approved accommodation from the Student Disability and Accommodation Services coordinator. Emotional support animals are not permitted in common areas of campus housing, classrooms or other college facilities.

Students requesting an emotional support animal in campus housing are required to apply for the accommodation by returning documentation to the above mentioned coordinator. This documentation must:

- Attest that the student is under the care of a physician or licensed mental health professional (Provider);
- Document a diagnosis of disability by Provider;
- State how the animal will serve as an accommodation for the diagnosed disability;
- State how the need for the animal relates to the ability for the student to use and enjoy campus housing; and
- Be signed by the Provider.

### **Responsibilities for those with on-campus animals:**

Owners of emotional support animals on campus are responsible for the animal at all times. This includes compliance with state and local animal ordinances, as well as college policies and procedures. Owners are responsible for the following:

- Maintaining control over the animal at all times;
- Animal must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered when in public;
- Providing animals with appropriate care, including food, water, shelter, healthcare, and humane treatment;
- Animal may not be left for prolonged periods of time – student is solely responsible for caring for the animal including during any breaks, and may not leave animals in campus housing during times when campus housing is closed;
- Cleaning up and disposing of all animal waste (both indoors and outdoors) in a timely and appropriate manner;
- Not allowing odor, noise, damage, or other behavior of animals that disturbs others or damages college grounds, facilities or property;
- All animals must be crated or otherwise appropriately contained when in campus housing;
- Animal must not be disruptive, aggressive, or pose a health or safety threat to others; and
- Maintaining any required vaccination and licensure requirements.

**Removal of Emotional Support Animal:**

Emotional support animals may be prohibited from or required to leave campus if the above responsibilities are not met; the animal's behavior poses a threat to the health and safety of others; the college determines the accommodation is no longer reasonable; or allowing the animal in housing fundamentally interferes with the use of college facilities.

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SCOPE            These procedures apply to Dawson Community College.

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History: August 2024