

Accessibility Services
Niagara County Community College

Service Animal Policy

Individuals are permitted to be accompanied by a **service animal (dog or miniature horse)** on campus. A service animal is a working animal, not a pet. They are not required to provide proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. If the reason for the use of the animal is not readily apparent, the individual will only be asked to provide:

- Verification that he or she has a disability; and
- Evidence of the dog's training and function, (i.e., what work or tasks the animal has been trained to perform).

Any question or concern that the individual is not entitled to have the animal on campus should be directed to the Accessibility Services Coordinator and not the individual. The Accessibility Services Coordinator will conduct an individualized assessment to determine whether the presence of the animal on campus is appropriate.

A "service animal" may be excluded if:

- The evidence reflects that the animal is not in fact a "service animal" trained to assist the individual;
- The animal is disruptive or out of control and the handler does not take steps to control it (The individual is solely responsible for the care or supervision of the animal.);
- The animal is not housebroken; and
- The animal poses a "direct threat" (actual behavior or history).

Individuals with service animals are required to provide evidence that the animal has had recent vaccinations and meets statutory health requirements. The individual must ensure that the animal is properly groomed and must attend to the animal's toileting needs.

Students with service animals are requested to advise Accessibility Services of the use of the service animals so that faculty can be advised that the service animal will be present in the class. A student has an absolute right to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas that students in the program are permitted to go, any decision that the animal is not permitted must be supported by clear evidence of a health and safety risk that cannot be removed or eliminated by any means other than denying the animal entrance. This determination must be made in consultation with the Accessibility Services Program Administrator. If the student is denied access to his or her service animal, the denial will be limited to the circumstances that give rise to the health and safety risk and the student will be provided an alternative access.