



## Loyola Marymount University

### GUIDELINES REGARDING SERVICE ANIMALS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

LMU is committed to compliance with state and federal laws regarding individuals with disabilities. In that connection, Disability Support Services (DSS) is committed to supporting students who require a service animal. The following is a guide for students who request the presence of a service animal on campus.

**What is a service animal?** A service animal is a dog (or in some cases a miniature horse) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

The work or task that the service animal performs must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples include assisting individuals with low vision and alerting individuals who are hearing impaired. Service animals may also be needed to pull a wheelchair, retrieve items such as medicine or a telephone, recognize and assist during seizures, and prevent or interrupt compulsive or destructive behavior.

Animals whose presence provide emotional support, companionship or comfort but are not individually trained to do work or tasks in response to an individual's disability are not considered service animals. See LMU's policy on Assistance Animals, if you feel you have a disability and believe you require an assistance animal for emotional support or comfort.

**Where is my service animal allowed?** Service animals are exempted from the University's policy of no animals on campus and are allowed in all places of public accommodation. This includes campus buildings, residence halls, and anywhere on campus they are needed to assist an individual with a disability to participate in educational programs and other campus activities.

**Are there rules about service animals?** Service animals must be under effective control at all times and cannot harm or threaten others in the campus community; including faculty, staff, students and guests. Consistent with federal and state law, a service animal may be prohibited from university facilities or programs if the animal's behavior or presence poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. The animal may also be excluded from areas where its presence fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity, if the animal is disruptive, if its presence would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others, or if it substantially interferes with the reasonable

enjoyment of housing or public accommodation by others. Service animals must be housebroken and cleaned up after.

Students who are approved to have a service animal on campus must sign a release of information for Public Safety, the Student Housing Office, and Facilities Management. Students will also be requested to provide a picture and name of their service animal, as well as an emergency contact. DSS will share this information with the departments specified on the release of information.

### **Applying with the DSS Office**

All students with disabilities, who require accommodation, including those with service animals, must be registered with DSS. Once registered, students can rely on DSS to protect and coordinate their rights to appropriate accommodation. To apply, you must complete the online DSS student application and submit supporting documentation, which will be reviewed by DSS to determine your eligibility under state and federal disability laws to determine accommodations.

The DSS student application can be found on-line at <https://andes.accessiblelearning.com/LMU/>. The Application asks you to describe the limitations you experience and how your service animal is of assistance. Once a file is complete, the review process may take up to 15 business days.

If you plan to have your service animal live in student housing, DSS strongly recommends you submit your DSS student application sixty days prior to your move in date. Advance notice allows DSS to work with Student Housing on your behalf to make housing arrangements that will best accommodate you and your service animal.

The DSS appeals and grievance process is available on the DSS website and provides guidance should you disagree with the DSS determination regarding your eligibility for or management of a service animal.

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