



Loyola Marymount University

GUIDELINES REGARDING SERVICE ANIMALS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Loyola Marymount University 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 physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other 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 Loyola Marymount University's Emotional Support Animal Guidelines, if you feel you have a disability and believe you require an emotional support animal for 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 always be under effective control 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 have a service animal on campus are asked to sign a release of information for Facilities Management, Public Safety, and the Student Housing Office. 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.

How is a service animal cared for during a campus/building emergency? The student is responsible for animal care, supervision, control, and emergency planning, at all times. During a campus or building emergency, the student should evacuate or shelter with the animal when it is safe to do so and must follow the instructions of Public Safety and other emergency personnel.

If the animal is inside an affected building when the student is not present, the student is responsible for notifying Public Safety and/or Student Housing of the animal's last known location. The student may not enter or re-enter an affected building until authorized by emergency personnel.

Loyola Marymount University personnel, including Public Safety personnel, are not responsible for searching for, retrieving, evacuating, transporting, feeding, sheltering, supervising, or otherwise caring for the animal. Emergency personnel may attempt to assist an animal when conditions and resources permit, but such assistance cannot be guaranteed and will not take priority over the protection of human life or emergency-response operations.

Applying with the DSS Office

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

The DSS online application can be found at <https://andes.accessiblelearning.com/LMU/>. Once a file is complete, the review process may take up to 15 business days.

If the student plans to have their service animal live with them in student housing, DSS strongly recommends they complete the Service Animal Agreement and Release of Information forms at least sixty days prior to their move in date. Advance notice allows DSS to work with Student Housing on the student's behalf to make housing arrangements that will best accommodate the student and their service animal.

The DSS appeals and grievance process is available on the DSS website (<https://academics.lmu.edu/dss/informationforstudents/appealcomplaintresolutionprocedure/>) and provides guidance should a student disagree with the DSS determination regarding eligibility for or management of accommodations.

08/12/2026