

**Number:** DS 6.00

**Section:** Disability Services

**Subject:** Service Animals on Campus

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**Policy for:** Disability Services; All Campuses

**Procedure for:** Disability Services; All Campuses

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**Issued by:** Disability Services

## I. Policy

Students with service animals are able to bring their animals on campus as allowed by the applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of USC Beaufort's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs, or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.

Service animal means any dog 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. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. 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.

## II. Procedure

Students with disabilities who have a service animal are not required to register with Disability Services, nor are they required to register their service animal.

USC Beaufort staff may ask a student with a service animal only the following two specific questions relative to the presence of the service animal, and only when it is unclear what service the animal provides:

- 1- Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
- 2- What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

USC Beaufort staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

A student with a disability cannot be asked to remove the service animal from the premises unless: (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it; or, (2) the dog is not housebroken. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, USC Beaufort staff must offer the person with the disability the opportunity to obtain goods or services without the animal's presence.

Students with disabilities who use service animals cannot be isolated from other patrons, or treated less favorably than other patrons. Students with disabilities who use service animals cannot be charged fees that are not charged to other patrons without animals, or fees that are charged to other patrons related to non-service animals.