

Service Animals at PCC

Portland Community College

PCC Service Animal Policy

Individuals experiencing disability may use Service Animals and Support Animals for a number of reasons. This written resource has been developed to ensure that students, employees and guests with disabilities who have service animals can participate in and benefit from PCC services, programs, and activities, and to ensure that the PCC does not discriminate on the basis of disability as identified in Titles I and II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and state antidiscrimination laws.

Q: What is a service animal?

A service animal is typically defined as any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform a task for a person with a disability. A service animal is not a pet. PCC, in accordance with the ADA, does not require proof of the service animal's training. Federal law allows any service animal access to areas open to the public. A service animal is specifically trained to perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

Tasks may include pulling a wheelchair, assisting a person who is blind or has low vision with navigation, retrieving items such as pens or backpacks, and providing physical support and assistance with balance.

Q: Can I bring my emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animal with me to PCC?

No, support animals are not allowed on campus. Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA.

Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals either. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. It does not matter if a person has a note from a doctor that states that the person has a disability and needs to have the animal for emotional support. A doctor's letter does not turn an animal into a service animal.

Q: What are my responsibilities as a service animal handler while at PCC?

The handler is responsible for the care and supervision of their service animal. For example the animal should be housebroken and should be vaccinated in accordance with state and local laws. If a service animal behaves in an unacceptable way and the handler does not control the animal, PCC does not have to allow the animal onto its premises.

Uncontrolled barking, jumping on other people, or running away from the handler are examples of unacceptable behavior for a service animal. PCC and the ADA requires the animal to be under the control of the handler at all times.

Q: Does my service animal have to be "registered?" Or wear a vest and/or other indicator?

The ADA does not require that service animals “register” or wear a vest and/or other identifying badges. However, service animals must generally have a harness or leash and demonstrate “working dog behaviors” such as following verbal and/or hand commands and staying at attention.

For more information on recognizing “untrained” and “out of control” animal behavior please visit <http://www.pcc.edu/resources/disability/policies/> or call the PCC DS Office at a local campus.

Related Resources:

Please see below for additional local and national resources:

PCC Student Rights and Responsibilities

<http://www.pcc.edu/about/policy/student-rights/>

PCC Service Animal Policy

<http://www.pcc.edu/resources/disability/policies/>

Guidance from Dept. of Justice

https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html

Our Team is Here for You!

More Questions? Want direction? Need to Discuss? Please call or stop by one of our four locations. These locations provide confidential meeting spaces for students and faculty to come together with Practitioners to discuss and explore this complex topic together. Please call or visit one of the campus locations listed below:

Sylvania DS

CC 210 | Ph. 971-722-4319

Cascade DS

SSB 110 | Ph. 971-722-5276

Rock Creek DS

Building 9 | Ph. 971-722-7558

Southeast DS

SCOMM 112 | Ph. 971-722-6340