

Assistance Animals at Albright

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA), individuals with disabilities may be permitted to have their assistance animal or emotional support animal in the residence halls of Albright College. The Director of Student Accessibility and Advocacy (SAA) engages in an interactive process with students in order to determine eligibility for this and other impairment-related accommodations. Please contact the Director of SAA about your assistance animal as soon as possible to ensure timely accommodations and appropriate access to the campus. Assistance animals should not be brought on campus unless the Director of SAA has approved their presence as an impairment-related accommodation.

Definition of Assistance Animals:

“An assistance animal is not a pet. It is an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.” (https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/SERVANIMALS_NTCFHEO2013-01.PDF)

Please note that service animals and assistance animals are different and are treated differently under various laws. If you have questions about a service animal, please contact SAA@albright.edu

Documentation Required for Assistance Animals:

Students must present documentation and a completed accommodation request form from an appropriate and licensed professional. The documentation provided should meet the standards established by Albright College. Students can view the standards online at <https://www.albright.edu/student-life/student-accessibility-advocacy/> or contact SAA for a paper or digital copy.

Care and Control of Assistance Animals:

Albright College and employees of the college are not responsible for the care or supervision of an assistance animal. This includes, but is not limited to, providing food for the animal as well as cleaning up the animal's waste. Individuals who are not able to pick up and dispose the animal's waste are responsible for making all necessary arrangements for assistance.

Assistance animals must be harnessed, leashed, and/or under the control of the handler. Animals must be housebroken and able to live on campus without creating a disturbance for other residents and members of the community. Assistance animals must be under the domain and control of the handler at all times, including when students are in class or out of their room.

Unattended Animals:

Assistance animals should not be left unattended in the residence halls for more than four (4) hours. If students will be leaving campus for the weekend or for breaks, they are required to take their animal with them. (Boarding animal in an off-campus facility is also an option. The student will be responsible for transporting the animal to the off-campus facility.) Since the animal is permitted to remain on campus as an accommodation for a specific student, the student with the accommodation is responsible for the control, observation, and maintenance of the animal. Other students should not

serve as proxies to attend/care for the animal. Students should contact the Director SAA as soon as possible in instances of temporary illness or hospitalization.

Removal of Assistance Animals:

A person with an impairment will be asked to remove his/her assistance animal from the college for the following reasons:

- The animal would cause a fundamental alteration of campus facilities, programs, or activity
- The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others
- The animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it
- The animal is not housebroken or the handler is not able to maintain a hygienic living environment
- The handler is unable to care for the animal. (Students should contact the Director of SAA as soon as possible in instances of temporary illness or hospitalization.)
- The handler has not provided documentation that supports the need for the housing accommodation.

Individuals who are asked to remove their assistance animals should contact Director of SAA promptly to inquire about reasonable accommodations without the animal's presence.

Assistance Animals in Residence Halls:

Individuals with assistance animals are encouraged to remember that their animal will impact others living and working at Albright. Assistance animals residing in the residence halls should be clean and up-to-date on all vaccinations. In addition, current vaccination records must be provided to SAA. Copies of these records will be forwarded onto the Office of Residential Life.

Students with assistance animals should maintain a clean and orderly room. Pet hair and dander should be cleaned up regularly, as other residents may have allergies or may develop allergies. Urine and feces must be properly disposed of on a daily basis and only in outside garbage receptacles. Consistent with the Community Living Guide, "periodic inspections will be made randomly throughout the academic year. An official of the College may make at least one inspection a month."

The assistance animal must be discussed and necessary provisions regarding the animal are included in the roommate contract. For example, roommates should discuss restrictions on the animal's movement in the room/apartment or how the animal will adhere to quiet hours. The student and roommates need to meet with a professional staff member with the Office of Residence Life to complete an updated roommate contract. The staff member will guide students to craft an optimized roommate contract which will account for a variety of scenarios that might impact the communal living environment. The updated roommate contract should be completed at least one business day prior to the animal's arrival.

Assistance animals may be asked to leave the residence halls if they are disruptive or exhibit aggressive or fearful behavior.

Students with assistance animals will be held responsible for destruction and damage to the residence halls caused by the animal and should consult the Community Living Guide for further information on property loss and damage. In addition, Albright College is not responsible for damages to personal or individual property caused by such animals. Students are expected to accept responsibility for damage to personal or college property caused by their animal. This includes the property of their roommate and other members of the college community.

Animal Licensing:

All animals must meet license requirements for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and if appropriate wear the designated licensing tags. Students should provide these records to the Director of Student Accessibility and Advocacy. Copies of these records will be forwarded onto the Office of Residence Life.

Standards for Assistance Animals:

Albright recognizes that successfully trained assistance animals will enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities and will not have a negative impact on other members of the college community. To that end we ask that students look into the standards from Assistance Dog International and when possible bring animals on campus which meet these standards. <https://www.assistedogsinternational.org/standards/adi-standards/>

- Animal shows no aggression towards people or other animals.
- Animal is clean, well-groomed and does not have an offensive odor.
- Animal does not urinate or defecate in inappropriate locations.
- Animal does not solicit attention, visit or annoy any member of the college community or general public.
- Animal does not vocalize unnecessarily, i.e. barking, growling or whining.
- Animal does not disrupt the normal course of teaching or college business.
- Animal does not solicit or steal food or other items from the college community or general public.
- Animal is under the control of the handler and remains in residential areas.
- Animal stays within 24" of its handler at all times unless the nature of a trained task requires it to be working at a greater distance.

Areas Off-limits to Assistance Animals:

Assistance animals are restricted from some areas due to health and safety concerns.

- Classrooms and classroom buildings, unless an additional accommodation is granted by SAA
- Residence halls designated as allergy-reduced
- Dining areas
- Food preparation areas
- Research laboratories where there are dangerous//hazardous substances
- Areas where protective clothing is necessary
- Mechanical rooms
- Custodial closets
- Other areas where the animal's presence would present a danger to the animal's health or the safety of others in the area

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the Assistance Animal Agreement. I will provide all required documentation to the Director of SAA prior to the assistance animal arriving at my residence. I understand that my assistance animal may be removed if I do not follow the provisions of this agreement.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Questions and concerns regarding Assistance Animals or Service Animals on campus can be directed to SAA@albright.edu or 610-929-6639.