



SERVICE ANIMALS—New Policy

Southeast Technical College Policy STC 856

1. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to outline and define Southeast Technical College's (STC) commitment to equal opportunity and access for individuals with disabilities that require assistance of a service animal. Access includes the STC campus, course offerings, programming, activities, and events. This policy differentiates "service animals" from pets and emotional support, therapy, and companion animals.

2. General Statement of Policy

- a. STC complies with federal, state, and local laws that allow a service animal to accompany any person with a disability on the STC campus, except where noted in this policy and in accordance with applicable laws.
- b. It shall be a violation of this policy to bring any type of animal, except qualified service animals, on the STC campus. Any animal that is used as part of the instruction of STC students will be allowed. Laws protecting service animals, or their activities, do not extend to non-service animals.
- c. Prior to full campus access, employees with a service animal must meet with the Human Resources Director.
- d. Prior to full campus access, students with a service animal must meet with the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- e. Employees can make limited inquiries when external visitors bring a service animal on campus, and it is not obvious what service the animal provides. Employees shall limit their inquiries to the following questions:
 - i. Is the service animal required because of a disability, and/or
 - ii. What work or task(s) has the service animal been trained to perform.

Employees may not request training documentation for the service animal, require that the service animal demonstrate any tasks, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.

- f. Service animals are subject to state and local licensing, including registration requirements. If a service animal resides in Minnehaha County for 30 days or more, documentation of local licensing and vaccination records (including rabies) must be submitted before a service animal is permitted full access to the STC campus.
- g. Service animals must be under the control of their partner at all times. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless such devices interfere with the service animal's work, or the individual's disability prevents the use of these devices. As allowed under state law, the person with a disability is liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by a service animal.
- h. Certain areas may be off-limits where there is potential danger to the service animal including any classroom, laboratory environment, or hazardous area with moving machinery, sharp metal cuttings, products of combustion, hazardous protruding objects, hot material on floors, or high

levels of dust discharge. It is also appropriate to exclude service animals from an area when the animal's presence may compromise a sterile environment.

- i. Without delay, the partner must clean up when a service animal urinates or defecates. Urine, if done inside, must be wiped up with an absorbent towel and antibacterial wipes. Feces need to be wrapped in plastic bags and properly disposed of in a waste receptacle. STC is not obligated to supervise or otherwise care for a service animal.
- j. Non-service animals are not allowed on STC campus unless prior approval has been received from the President or their designee and it is for a STC sponsored event (i.e. De-Stress Fest).
- k. This policy will not restrict animals that are brought onto STC property in the furtherance of the Veterinary Technician Program

3. Definitions

- a. A service animal is defined as:
 - i. A dog or miniature horse that is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability to include physical, sensory, mental, psychological, intellectual, or other mental disabilities.
 - ii. A service dog is any canine that is trained to perform a disability-specific task for a person with a disability.
 - iii. A miniature horse with a general range in height from 24-34 inches measured to the shoulders and general weight of 70-100 pounds who is trained to perform a disability-specific task for a person with a disability can serve as a service animal.
- b. A service animal does not include:
 - i. Puppies or miniature foals "in training" are not legally classified as service animals.
 - ii. Therapy, emotional support, and companion animals (including all other classifications of mammals, reptiles, fowl, fish, et al.) do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Unlike service animals, these are not legally recognized by ADA as individually trained to do work, or perform tasks, for the benefit of an individual with a disability, nor do they accompany a person with a disability at all times.

4. Dissemination of Policy and Training

This policy shall appear on the STC website. Adapted from Western Dakota Technical College Service Animal Policy #4013.

Legal References: 42 US Code Chapter 126 – Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended
 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended

Board Approved:

Policy	Board Action
adopted: 11-05-25	ST00969