

Emotional Support Animal (ESA) Provider Request for Additional Information

The College recognizes that having an ESA in the residence hall may be a benefit for a student with a significant mental health disorder, but the practical limitations of housing arrangements make it necessary to carefully consider the impact of the request for an ESA on both the student and the campus community.

Purpose of this document: To provide both the student and treating provider with specific/additional questions to address when recommending an emotional support animal accommodation for a college student with a disability.

So that we may better evaluate the request for this accommodation, please consider the following when recommending an ESA for a student. This information may accompany the housing provider documentation form or be included in the documentation letter (see housing accommodation document).

Information About the Student's Disability: (A person with a disability is defined as someone who has "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.")

1. What is the nature of the student's mental health disability? Please include a DSM-V diagnosis (specific disability) and pertinent background information related to the disability.
2. How is the student substantially limited by this disability such that an ESA would be necessary for this student to have full benefit or enjoyment of housing on a college campus?
3. Does the student require ongoing treatment for this diagnosis, and if so, how is that treatment being provided?
4. How long have you been working with the student regarding this mental health diagnosis?
5. Is this an animal that you specifically prescribed as part of treatment for the student?
6. Please describe specific symptoms of the disability that may be reduced by having an ESA. Is there evidence that an ESA has helped this student in the past or currently? If so, please explain.

7. Have you discussed the responsibilities associated with properly caring for an animal while engaged in typical college activities and residing in campus housing?

a) Do you believe those responsibilities might exacerbate the student's symptoms in any way? (If you have not had this conversation with the student, we will discuss with the student at a later date.)