

Grayson College Disability Services

Service Animals in Training Policy

ADA Service Animal Terms

The document (https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html) published by the Office of Civil Rights addresses two key points:

- 1.) **The ADA does not require service animals to be professionally trained.** People with disabilities have the right to train the dog themselves and are not required to use a professional service dog training program.
- 2.) **HOWEVER, service-animals-in-training are not considered service animals.** Under the ADA, the dog must already be trained before it can be taken into public places. Thus, until the training is complete, the service animal in training does not have the same protection and privileges as a fully trained service animal. Some State* or local laws cover animals that are still in training.

The State of Texas* does recognize Service Animals in Training to have access to the same areas as trained service animals **as long as they are accompanied by an approved trainer**. Grayson College requires the student provide documentation of their certification as the trainer from an approved organization. *State of Texas Code Sec.121.003 (i) **A service animal in training shall not be denied admittance to any public facility when accompanied by an approved trainer.**

Requirements for Students

1. Complete the Disability Services Verification Form for Service Animals in Training. This form does not register the student with Disability Services for classroom accommodations, but if the student wants to apply for services, he/she can do so. This DS Verification Form, along with documentation certifying the student as an approved trainer (#2), will be kept on file in the Disability Services Office.
2. Provide Disability Services a certification of training document. An approved trainer recognized by Grayson College is an individual who has been certified by an organization whose primary mission is to train service animals for people with disabilities. **If the student is not an approved trainer, the student must provide proof an approved trainer will be with the student and the dog while in campus buildings.**

3. Meet with Disability Services Coordinator to obtain approval for bringing a Service Animal in Training into campus buildings. A campus building is any building on campus, including housing facilities. During this meeting, DS Coordinator and student will:
 - a. Review published ADA language that allows for the person to train the dog themselves, but does not recognize service animals in training as a protected accommodation.
 - b. Review State of Texas statute that does allow service animals in training to access the same areas as Service Animals as long as they are accompanied by an approved trainer.
 - c. Review GC's policy on what constitutes a recognized approved trainer. *
 - d. Review GC's policy that Service Animals in Training must be identified by a vest or tag indicating they are in training, and must comply with and abide by the same college policies and procedures that any Service Animal or Assistance Animal follows. This includes policies within the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

4. Housing Requirements – If the student resides in GC Student Housing, then the Verification Form will be sent to the Director of Student Life and Housing as well.