I. Allowed Use of Service Versus Emotional Support Animals

Use of a service animal is an ADA-protected right for individuals with disabilities. The service animal is allowed to go anywhere the public is allowed to go. Therefore, service animals assisting OU students must be allowed in OU classrooms and must be allowed at field placement sites. If a child at the field placement site is allergic to the service animal, the child will receive an accommodation. An allergy is not a reason to deny the service animal.

Use of an emotional support animal is not a protected right. Emotional support animals, no matter how well-trained, may be barred from OU classrooms and from field placement sites.

II. What Your OU Instructors May Ask You

If an animal is brought to class, your instructor may ask you these two questions:

1. Is the dog a service animal that is required because of a disability?
2. What work or task the animal has been trained to perform?

With this information, and in consultation with the OU Disability Resource Center, the instructor will determine whether your animal will be allowed to attend class. In all cases, if your animal is disruptive and you cannot quickly bring your animal under control, the instructor will ask you to remove the animal from the classroom.

III. Field Experiences

Special preparation is required of students planning to take a service animal to field placements. It is important that you contact Dr. Guttery at the OU Disability Resource Center upon admission to the Teacher Education program. Failure to do so may delay program completion.

Dr. Guttery will help you anticipate and plan for the complexities of taking an animal into a classroom or agency context. Please note that most schools and other organizations will require you to register your animal with them prior to bringing it to the classroom or agency.

III. More Information

OU Disability Resource Center
730 College Avenue - University Community Center, Norman, OK 73019
(405) 325-3852 (Voice) Email: drc@ou.edu

ADA National Network website: https://adata.org/publication/service-animals-booklet