

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL AGREEMENT

The emotional support animal (ESA) process begins with Disability Services. A student who has a documented disability, must submit that documentation to Disability Services for review.

Upper Iowa University, in compliance with the Fair Housing Act (FHA), may allow Emotional Support Animals as a reasonable accommodation in residence hall rooms of students with documented disabilities. While Emotional Support Animals are permitted in university residence hall rooms, apartments, and houses, they are prohibited from public areas such as dining centers, classrooms, computer labs, or other university property.

Students with Emotional Support Animals will be responsible for the ownership of the animal, including maintaining and controlling the animal at all times. ESA owners will be held responsible for any cost associated with damages the animal causes to campus property or other persons.

It is important that you, as the student requesting an Emotional Support Animal accommodation, complete this form and return the application to the Student Accessibility Services Office along with documentation from a physician or licensed mental health professional supporting your need for this particular accommodation. The supportive documentation must verify that you meet FHA's definition of a person with a disability, describes how the animal will assist you and shows the relationship between your disability and the need for assistance. This documentation must show consistent care with a provider who can give a diagnosis(es) and be able to validate an accommodation for an ESA. This documentation must be sent from your providers e-mail to accessibility@uiu.edu

UIU reserves the right to make decisions on a case-by-case basis and as new information becomes available.

Additionally, Emotional Support Animals must have up-to-date vaccinations and photo on file with Student Accessibility Services.

Please note that eligibility for accommodations will not be determined until a completed Request for Services form and relevant documentation are on file. You must also meet with Student Accessibility Services to discuss your request.

Under no circumstances, can an animal be on the UIU campus until the student has been through the entire ESA process with both Student Accessibility Services and Residence Life.

An ESA on campus when not approved is considered a prohibited possession.

1. The accommodation to have an ESA are valid for **the current academic year** and must be renewed each academic year.

Priority Deadline Dates:

- **November 1, 2024** for new students for the upcoming spring semester
 - **July 31, 2024** for current students for the upcoming academic year: Updated documentation and request for the specific housing accommodation must be submitted to Disability Services by July 31. Current students must renew their request for an ESA each academic year.
 - **July 31, 2024** for incoming new and first-year students for the upcoming academic year: Request for specific housing accommodation and documentation must be submitted to Disability Services by July 31. While applications submitted after these dates will be accepted and considered, we cannot guarantee the ESA will be able to come on campus at the beginning of the academic year.
2. In order to determine eligibility, the student must meet and speak with Disability Services and provide documentation that supports how the ESA supports the disabling condition.

ESA Accommodation Documentation

All disabilities must be documented by a licensed provider with expertise in the area of diagnosis. Additionally, an ongoing relationship with the provider should be demonstrated. Ongoing relationship with the provider is defined as 1 year.

Please make sure that your medical/mental health provider completes the [Required Provider Documentation Form](#). Information about the diagnosis and treatment of your condition remains confidential.

Please note that providing the college with medical documentation does not guarantee an ESA accommodation.

The following documents are **not** considered acceptable forms of documentation:

- Documentation from an unlicensed or non-healthcare provider
- Correspondence from healthcare providers not directly addressed to Upper Iowa Student Accessibility Services
- Handwritten patient records or notes from patient charts
- Diagnosis on prescription pads
- On-line certificate
- Self-evaluation found on the internet or in any print publication
- Research articles

I have read and understand this document

Signed: _____ Date: _____

