

## Emotional Support Animal Policy

In general, animals are not permitted in The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)'s residence halls. However, SAIC recognizes the importance emotional support animals in assisting people with disabilities. The purpose of this policy is to help students understand their rights with respect to the use of emotional support animals and to provide a framework for managing the presence of emotional support animals in the residence halls. As used in this policy, the term student means any individual residing in an SAIC residence hall.

Emotional support animals are to be distinguished from service animals. An emotional support animal is any animal that is necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy on-campus housing. There must be an identifiable relationship between the disability and the assistance that the animal provides the student. An emotional support animal is only permitted in the student's assigned residence hall room and outdoor spaces adjacent to the building, if necessary. Emotional support animals are not permitted in other parts of the residence hall or in other campus buildings.

SAIC will typically notify a student's roommates that an animal, including the type of animal, has been approved to be in the living space. As determined by SAIC, any animal that may present a risk of harm to others, that may be disruptive to the community, or that requires live feed, such as snakes and lizards, are not permitted in the residence halls as an emotional support animal. In addition, an emotional support animal must be an appropriate size and weight for the student's assigned housing space, as determined by SAIC. Students are encouraged to review all of the DLRC and Residence Life procedures prior to identifying an emotional support animal to ensure that the animal meets all of the emotional support animal requirements.

A student who wishes to have an emotional support animal as an accommodation must first satisfy the Procedures for Requesting an Emotional Support Animal Accommodation. These procedures are administered by the Disability and Learning Resource Center (DLRC) and can be found at <http://www.saic.edu/lifeatsaic/wellnesscenter/disabilityandlearningresourcecenter/>. Among other things, the procedures require the student requesting the accommodation to provide acceptable documentation of an identifiable relationship between the student's disability and the assistance provided by the emotional support animal. To begin the process of requesting such an accommodation, the student should contact the DLRC at [dlrc@saic.edu](mailto:dlrc@saic.edu) or 312.499.4278.

Once an emotional support animal has been approved by the DLRC, the student must then register the animal with Residence Life. The Residence Life Registration Procedures can be found at <http://www.saic.edu/lifeatsaic/housingandresidencelife/>. An emotional support animal that has been approved by the DLRC but otherwise does not meet the Residence Life registration requirements will not be permitted in the residence halls.

While the emotional support animal is in the residence hall, the student must at all times follow the procedures outlined in the Owner's Responsibilities and Guidelines for Having Emotional Support Animals in Residence Halls (Guidelines). SAIC reserves the right to require the student to immediately remove an emotional support animal from the residence hall if the requirements of the Guidelines are not met.

A student who has a medical condition that may be affected by the presence of an emotional support animal in his or her residence hall room should contact the DLRC. After consultation, the DLRC and Residence Life staff will make arrangements to accommodate such student. A student who has a safety concern about the presence of an emotional support animal in his or her residence hall room or who simply does not want to reside in the same room as an emotional support animal should contact Residence Life. If possible, Residence Life staff will make arrangements to either relocate the student or the emotional support animal.