



University Housing Emotional Support Animal Documentation Guidelines

The student presenting you with this form has indicated that you are a provider who has suggested or prescribed an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) to help them manage a disability. To approve emotional support animals as accommodations in University Housing, the Office for Access and Accommodations requires documentation to support this request. Please provide a letter which addresses the following questions:

- **Do you have a professional relationship with the patient which involves the provision of healthcare or disability-related services?**
- **Based on your personal knowledge, does the student meet criteria for having a disability?** A disability means having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include but are not limited to: caring for one's self, eating, sleeping, learning, thinking, concentrating, communicating, interacting with others, and working.
- **Does this particular student need the animal because it provides therapeutic emotional support which alleviates at least one symptom or effect of their disability and is not merely a pet?**
- **What animal has been recommended as the emotional support animal for this student?** *If the animal is "unique" (e.g., something other than a dog, cat, small bird, rabbit, hamster, gerbil, rodent, fish, or turtle), please explain why this unique type of animal is needed, as opposed to a more traditional household pet. For unique animals you must also provide the date of your last consultation with the patient, explain any unique circumstances justifying the patient's need for a particular animal or type of animal, confirm that you have reliable information about the animal and indicate whether you are specifically recommending this type of animal.*

Please fax the letter on your office letterhead to 618-453-5700. Include your full contact information and credentials which qualify you to make this determination.