



Accommodating Students with Disabilities in Chemistry Teaching Laboratories

Guidance for Dispensary Staff, TAs and Course Instructors

Scope: This guidance applies to Chemistry Department staff who deal with students who have disabilities (permanent or temporary) or who need a service animal. It is not intended to substitute for student interaction with the Student Disability Center (SDC). All students with disabilities are encouraged to access the services available through the SDC. This guideline is intended for teaching laboratory staff but may be used for research laboratory applications, as well.

Goal: It is the intent of the Chemistry Department to help all students be safe and successful in the teaching laboratories. This goal applies to service animals, as well. To that end, it's important the Department understand the needs of the student and accommodations requested by the student. If a service animal is used, the Staff need to understand how the animal has been trained to help. Service animals are precious and beloved and we want to protect them as best we can.

Safety Equipment: Basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required of all persons in Chemistry teaching and research laboratories:

Long pants or skirt to completely cover the legs. Leggings, nylons or tights are not sufficient protection.

Closed shoes that cover the entire foot.

Laboratory coat, sized properly to cover the wrist, arms and chest and the top of the thighs, when seated. A student who works from a seated position should also have a chemical-resistant apron.

Service animals entering laboratories must be similarly protected to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, broken glass or other hazards that might be present in the laboratory environment. Booties to cover the feet (an option here: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/jwgdsqu>) and a disposable lab coat (available from Vet Med Central Stores here: <http://www.vmcs.ucdavis.edu/Lasso.acgi?-database=Orders.fp3&-response=shop/shop.html&-add> - search for "lab coat" – Maytex coats are considered disposable), provided by the owner. The Department Dispensary Staff will make available plastic-backed absorbent paper for the animal to lie on during lab to protect the animal from whatever might be on the floor. Animal beds or fabric pads are not appropriate for use in the lab.

Note: If the disability is temporary, such as the use of crutches, an arm cast or similar, the student should meet with the Department Safety Manager and discuss PPE options and recommended accommodations to temporarily manage the disability while the student heals. Is it reasonable for the student to drop the class and return when healed and strong? The student would have a better chance to do be successful in class when healthy and free of distractions.

Needs Assessment (for use by Dispensary Staff, TAs, Course Instructors or PIs)

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Staff Person: _____

If the student presents a permanent disability, with a service animal or not, the following questions should be asked:

1. Have you met with the Student Disability Center and what were their recommendations for you?

2. What accommodations are you requesting in the lab class context?

3. Have you worked in a lab setting before? Yes No

a) If yes, what course/program? _____

b) Did you learn any new/useful adaptive techniques you can show us?

c) What equipment modifications were made for you?

4. Can you stand for a period of time in the lab? Yes No NA

a) Do you require a stool to be readily available to you? Yes No NA

b) Does the stool have to have a back on it? Yes No NA

5. Can you lift your arms to be able to use tall lab equipment? Yes No NA

6. Can you see well enough to collect data, read a thermometer, digital balance readout, etc.?

Yes No NA

a) Do you require a lab assistant (funded by SDC)? Yes No NA

7. Can you hear well enough to be alerted to an emergency in the lab, an unexpected occurrence with your experiment, and communicate clearly with your lab partner? Yes No NA

8. Do you have tools (such as readers/magnifiers, gripper/grabbers, etc.) you plan to bring to class?

Yes No NA

a) Please describe.

9. Do you require assistance to carry items that might weigh over a pound or two?

Yes No NA

a) Do you require assistance to turn knobs, open jars, hold and use small items (spatula, small beakers or flasks), etc.? Yes No NA

If you're a wheelchair user:

a) Do you require a lower counter height? Yes No NA

b) Can you lift your arms to use or access lab equipment on the counter?

Yes No NA

c) Can you collect data in a format so the data can be easily shared with your lab partner?

Yes No NA

d) Do you require a lab assistant? (funded by SDC) Yes No NA

If you use a service animal:

The "Information for Service Animal Users" sheet must be provided, discussed and signed.

a) Do you require the animal to be with you at all times or only under certain circumstances?

Yes No circumstance?

What are those circumstances?

b) Do you need a place for the animal to stay while you're in lab and not needing the animal at that time? Yes No NA

c) If you need the animal to be brought to you while you're in lab, what are those circumstances?

d) What is the animal trained to alert to?

e) How does the animal alert?

f) What should the TA or Dispensary Staff do if the animal alerts?



INFORMATION FOR SERVICE ANIMAL USERS

The Chemistry Department is committed to your safety and success in laboratory and if that success includes the use of a service animal, to make sure your animal is also safe and secure. Laboratories are dangerous places. Hazardous chemicals, open flames, glassware, and electrical equipment are all in use. It is not a good environment for a beloved and precious animal.

If you require the use of a service animal in the laboratory, staff have been trained to ask you a series of questions to determine how best we can safely facilitate the presence of your animal. These questions are not intended to prevent you from having your animal in lab, but rather so we understand how best to accommodate your needs and the needs of your animal. The following equipment and behavior expectations are required for your animal's safety and for the safety of the other laboratory occupants.

Personal Protective Equipment: Service animals entering laboratories must be similarly protected to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, broken glass or other hazards that might be present in the laboratory environment. Booties to cover the feet (an option here: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/jwgdqsqu>) and a disposable lab coat (available from Vet Med Central Stores here: [http://www.vmcs.ucdavis.edu/Lasso.acgi?-database=Orders.fp3&-response=shop/shop.html&-add - search for "lab coat"](http://www.vmcs.ucdavis.edu/Lasso.acgi?-database=Orders.fp3&-response=shop/shop.html&-add-search-for='lab+coat') – Maytex are considered a disposable coat), provided by the owner. The Department Dispensary Staff will make available plastic-backed absorbent paper for the animal to lie on during lab to protect the animal from whatever might be on the floor. Animal beds or fabric pads are not appropriate for use in the lab.

For kennel-trained service animals, a lightweight kennel might be appropriate. Please discuss with Staff the option of a kennel.

Behavior Expectations: If the service animal is present in lab, the animal must be trained to "stay" and "leave it" (or equivalent behavior). The animal must not vocalize, bark, or growl inappropriately. If the animal is trained to alert by vocalizing, the Dispensary Staff must be aware of the circumstances under which the animal would vocalize. Disruptive, extended vocalizing or barking will not be permitted, unless in proper context. The animal must not behave aggressively towards other people – snapping, snarling, growling, charging, swiping, etc. The animal must not jump up on other people. The people in the laboratory will be informed that the animal is a service animal and always working. Interaction with the animal is by permission of the owner and only outside of the laboratory.

If the service animal displays any of these behaviors, the animal will not be permitted in the laboratory until documented and demonstrated re-training has occurred.

I have read and agree to these stipulations and requirements.

Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Classroom or Research Laboratory: _____

Staff Member Signature: _____ Date _____