



Addendum for Students Requesting ESA Accommodation

Students who are requesting an Emotional Support Animal as an accommodation for a disability should note the following:

- Your documentation should strive to meet the criteria described in the attachment “Documentation Guidelines for Mental Health Disabilities”.
- In your documentation, your healthcare provider must make a link between your functional limitations (how you are impacted by your condition) and the way an emotional support animal will help to alleviate these symptoms.
- The healthcare provider **should not** *simply* state: “In my professional opinion, due to student’s condition, he/she needs a comfort/emotional support animal”, or only refer to research rather than your specific situation. **(See below for example of acceptable language.)**
- You should be familiar with the [Gonzaga University Support Animal Policy](#), and be able to agree to all conditions in this policy, including adhering to timelines.

Example language for your doctor/health care practitioner to include in your documentation:

Student has been diagnosed with **condition X**. **Condition X** causes **him/her** to have the following symptoms: **[A, B, C]**

We have found that having an emotional support animal of **[type]** (such as **cat, dog, rabbit, etc.**) in **Student’s** living area reduces or alleviates those symptoms in the following ways: **[A, B, C]**

Therefore, I am recommending that **Student** be allowed an emotional support **cat/dog/etc.** for **her/his** condition.