



NORTHWEST[®]

MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

General Community Guidelines for Service Animals

Service Animals are working animals; they are trained to work and perform tasks and are not pets. Accordingly, the College recommends that members of the Northwest community adhere to the following best practices when interacting with service animals.

- Do not pet a service animal while it is working. Service animals are trained to be protective of their partners and petting distracts them from their responsibilities.
- Always speak to the service animal's owner/handler first and ask before interacting with the service animal.
- Never feed a working service animal.
- Do not deliberately startle, tease or taunt a service animal.
- Do not separate or attempt to separate a service animal from his/her handler.
- Ask the service animal's owner/handler if he/she would like assistance if the team seems confused about a direction in which to turn, an accessible entrance, the location of the elevator, etc.
- Don't be offended if the service animal's owner/handler does not want to discuss the animal, their disability, let you pet the animal or otherwise interact with you.
- College staff may ask only two questions if the animal is not identifiable as a service animal: 1) Is the animal required for a disability? 2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Affirmative Action

Northwest Mississippi Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or status as a veteran or disabled veteran in all its programs and activities. Northwest Mississippi Community College prohibits sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The following have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990/Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Disability Support Services Coordinator, Tate Hall, PO Box 7046, 4975 Highway 51 North, Senatobia, MS 38668, telephone number 662-562-3309, email mkelsay@northwestms.edu; Title II of the Age Discrimination Act: Vice President of Finance, James P. McCormick Administration Building, PO Box 7017, 4975 Highway 51 North, Senatobia, MS 38668, telephone number 662-562-3216, email jhorton@northwestms.edu; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972/Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: Associate Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management, Tate Hall, PO Box 7010, 4975 Highway 51 North, Senatobia, MS 38668, telephone number 662-562-3997, email trush@northwestms.edu.