

**UW-Madison Department of Chemistry  
Policy on Service Animals in Teaching Laboratories**

If you anticipate working with a service animal in the laboratory at any time over the course of your enrollment, we want to make sure that both you and the members of the department are able to provide that opportunity without endangering the safety of you, your fellow students, or your animal. In order to achieve this goal, we will need to know the specifics of the service the animal provides with enough advance notice to make the appropriate arrangements.

Before you first set foot in the lab space for each new course, you must meet with the lab director who supervises the laboratory component of your course (see list below). It is highly recommended that you make arrangements (via email, preferably) for this meeting with plenty of notice (two or three months before the start of your class is not too much!) so that we can have all plans worked out without disrupting your class participation.

You can expect to be asked questions such as the following:

- Do you require the animal to be with you at all times or only under certain circumstances? What are those circumstances?
- Do you need a place for the animal to stay while you are in lab and not needing the animal at that time?
- Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
- How does the animal alert?

We will then make sure that plans are in place to address various possible incident scenarios.

Aside from the particular plans that will be tailored to your assistance needs, there are a few other preparations you can make ahead of each course and/or experiment:

**1. Personal protective equipment for your service animal**

Service animals are required to wear the same personal protective equipment covering as students in the lab. This means that you must acquire goggles, foot protection (though a protective mat will be provided for the animal's safety during lab), and sturdy protective clothing for your service animal. We are happy to work with you to identify clothing materials that are well suited to the laboratory environment.

**2. Chemical safety information pertaining to your service animal**

The Department of Chemistry maintains information pertaining to chemical safety for humans only. Each laboratory exercise includes a list of the reagents used and products anticipated. It will be your responsibility to review this list for any hazards that apply to your service animal in particular.

**3. Chemical hazards and alternative assignments**

In some cases, lab exercises may involve use of chemicals that interfere (or run a reasonable risk of interfering) with your service animal's ability to provide its service. In

such cases, your instructor and the lab director will work to provide you with an alternative assignment to minimize loss of instructional quality and keep you from losing any credit. The decision to provide an alternative assignment is made at the discretion of the supervising lab director. If you feel that a lab exercise presents an undetermined hazard and no alternative has yet been determined, please reach out to your TA, course instructor, or lab director as soon as possible. The nature of the recurring chemical hazards in some courses may require an alternative course enrollment (again, please speak with your lab directors ahead of time, so that you do not encounter any surprises in this regard).

4. **Leashing/tethering of service animal**

Service animals will have to remain leashed or tethered at all times unless doing so prevents them from performing their necessary service or the individual's disability prevents use of these devices.

**Lab directors/supervisors, by course:**

Chem 103, 104, 108, 109, and 109H:

Dr. Chad Wilkinson: wilkinson@chem.wisc.edu

Dr. Stephen Block: sblock@chem.wisc.edu

Chem 311, 511:

Dr. Chad Wilkinson

Chem 342, 344, 346:

Dr. Nick Hill: hill@chem.wisc.edu

Dr. Brian Esselman: besselman@chem.wisc.edu

Chem 115, 116, 327, 329:

Dr. Pam Doolittle: pam@chem.wisc.edu

Chem 524, 621, 624, 628:

Dr. Rob McClain: mcclain@chem.wisc.edu

Chem 563, 564:

Dr. Mark Wendt: wendt@chem.wisc.edu