# EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

## *Wenatchee Valley College Student Access Services*

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

* Please, follow the usual process for requesting accommodations as outlined on Student Access Services webpage.
* Your documentation should strive to meet the criteria described in “Documentation Guidelines for Mental Health Disabilities”.
* In addition, 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.)

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.*