

## Volunteer Opportunity Therapy Dog

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Spread a little love with the Dog Therapy Program at A-B Tech. The College recognizes the positive influence that therapy dogs can have on student and staff.

Not to be confused with service dogs, therapy dogs help by visiting and spread kindness and providing comfort. Teams are needed to have regular routes on campus, visiting public areas, and staff offices. Team also assist with special requests such as visiting classrooms before exams or special events on campus.

A-B Tech requires that all volunteers complete an application, criminal background check, provide copies of their Therapy Dog Certification, and attend a new volunteer orientation session before starting.

### Volunteer Handler Requirements:

- The owners/handlers will follow all of the rules of their certifying registry.
- The dog shall be under the direct and continuous supervision and control of the volunteer handler at all times.
- The Coordinator of Campus Volunteers will determine which therapy dogs will be invited to visit the campus.
- Report all Incidents to the A-B Tech Campus Police, Campus Volunteer Coordinator, and the registry, which certifies the dog and handler team.
- All handlers are required to attend the volunteer orientation and be registered volunteers at A-B Tech.

### Selection Requirements:

- Only dogs certified medically fit, and are trained and certified by an appropriate accrediting agency shall be allowed to visit students and staff.
- Dogs must be a minimum of one-year-old to visit.
- Non-spayed dogs are not allowed to visit when in estrus.
- Their accrediting agency must annually certify all dogs.
- All dogs must have an up-to-date identification card from their certifying registry.
- The dog must be bathed and well groomed.
- Before the start of each therapy visit, the dog handler will check the dog for signs and symptoms of health problems.
- Their owners/handlers shall walk dogs to empty their systems before entry into College buildings. The owner is responsible for disposing of the animal waste.

**Times:** Mon-Thursdays. Visits are typically one hour during business hours of 8 am – 5 pm.

**Location:** Various locations throughout A-B Tech including our Asheville and Woodfin Campuses.