



March 2, 2023

Dear Commencement Attendees,

Jackson State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all members of our community. Jackson State University works in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and adheres to all federal and state guidelines. Pursuant to the ADA, only service animals are allowed to accompany individuals with disabilities in public places. Service animals are defined as dogs of any breed and size that are trained to perform specific tasks directly related to a person's disability. Emotional support or therapy animals do not qualify under this designation. Per the ADA, providing emotional support or comfort is not a task related to a person's disability.

Documented service animals may be utilized at both the Athletics and Assembly Center and Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium, so long as the dog's presence doesn't fundamentally alter the nature of goods, services, programs or activities provided to the public. Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals are not allowed in these venues during any university sponsored activity. Any animal other than service animals will not be allowed at commencement and anyone in violation of this will be escorted out.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. For more information, please visit [ada.gov/topics/service-animals/](https://www.ada.gov/topics/service-animals/). If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact JSU Disability Services at 601-979-3704.

With Tiger Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arron Richardson".

Arron Richardson, Ph.D.