

Personal Care Assistance Policy

The University of Akron (UA) does not provide services related to personal care assistance. It is the responsibility of the student to provide for the cost and coordination of personal care assistance while attending and/or in residence at the University.

Students are required to ensure that the appropriate amount of personal care is in place while attending The University of Akron. Please note that it is inappropriate to ask any University of Akron personnel to provide any level of personal care assistance related to any activity of daily living including, but not limited to toileting, showering, eating, sleeping, walking, dressing, grooming, transfer in and out of a wheelchair and personal hygiene.

If a student in the residence halls, who requires personal care assistance, does not have an appropriate amount of that assistance in place to the point where the University in its sole discretion determines the student's or others' health, safety and/or well-being is at risk, the student will be required to vacate the residence halls immediately. If a temporary access card is needed for the personal care assistant, the student and the personal care assistant must first sign the temporary access card agreement.

As a student utilizing personal care assistance, these are your responsibilities:

- Direct the activities of the personal care attendant(s) (PCA) while at UA. The PCA is not permitted to do academic work for a student and students will be held accountable via the Student Code of Conduct if they receive inappropriate academic assistance from a PCA. Discuss any academic needs with a disability specialist in the OA.
- Have a back-up plan or alternative plan of action should the regular PCA(s) not be available to work on a particular day or in a particular class.
- Follow the UA's policies and abide by the OA Student Handbook and the UA code of conduct.
- Pay for and coordinate all PCA services, including, but not limited to parking, housing and meal plans if living on campus.
- Ensure that PCA's are aware of the PCA expectations in the OA student handbook.

A PCA is expected to:

- Follow all applicable UA policies, rules, regulations, and procedures.
- Assist the student before and after class but wait outside the classroom (unless PCA services are medically indicated inside the classroom).
- Allow the student to take responsibility for his/ her own progress/ behavior.
- Refrain from contact with or asking questions of faculty, staff or others on behalf of the student.
- Refrain from intervening in conversations between the student and faculty, staff or other students.
- Refrain from discussing any confidential information about the student with faculty, staff or students.
- Arrange and supply a criminal background check to comply with UA Residence Life and Housing policies.
- Abide by all Residence Life and Housing policies.

Should you have evacuation concerns, these are your responsibilities:

- Communicate all evacuation concerns to Residence Life and Housing, the Office of Accessibility, and professors.
- Have a self-plan in place for evacuating in the event of an emergency.