

Atlas Assistance Dogs®
Atlas Trainer Academy Course Syllabi
Mobility Specialties

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Service Dog Foundations Summary

We have included key sections and summary material from our Service Dog Foundation Course as its own module along with this course. This is in addition to what is included in the syllabus below to ensure necessary pre-requisite information is available.

S4B – Disability Skills Training – Balance and Mobility

Course Description

This course is text and video based. It covers detailed information regarding a variety of cues which are used to mitigate disabilities or symptoms related to mobility and balance. Example of such tasks are mobility retrievals, balance assistance, bracing, and many more.

The course is accompanied by our Specialized Mobility Disability Skills Manual which provides details on how to introduce and refine each skill as well as tips, tricks, and important notes.

We present each skill with a definition, purpose, prerequisite. It is then followed by a video demonstration of use and/or teaching of skills. We follow it up with a discussion of possible use with clients.

Course Objectives

- Cover the common range of skills dogs are taught to mitigate disabilities pertaining to Mobility/balance
- Give trainers the tools to work with dogs and clients on these skills and to expand from this foundation

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Have a solid understanding of many of mobility tasks and their use for various conditions
- Know how to train skills typical of mobility related disability tasks such as: Hold, Tug, Pull, Push/Close it, Brace, Steps, Dress, Undress, Light, Switch, Fix, Laser, Complex/Combination Retrieval Tasks.

Outline

- Skills used to mitigate mobility and balance related symptoms or disabilities
- Explanation and demonstration
- Potential applications

Course Expectations

Please allow multiple sessions of a couple of hours at a time to go through the course and review the references that will be provided. There are many details in the course materials and the accompanying manual, so please take time to digest them. If the topic is less familiar to you, you may need more time to view references or research the area in further depth.

You will be asked to complete a very brief survey after you complete the course to give us your feedback.

This course includes two video/written assignments. In each, the videos should show you working with a client to teach them two of the behaviors covered in this course, so as you are going through the course be thinking about which skills you might want to teach.

For the first assignment you may choose from: Light or Switch, Tug, Pull, Push/Close It

For the second you may choose from: Brace, Step, Mobility Retrieval Multi-part Skill, Laser Retrieval

Along with the videos, a detailed training plan is required. The training plans should cover the refining stages for each behavior. The videos should be approximately two to four minutes in length. It will likely take you one or more sessions with a client to achieve the desired results in the video. More detailed guidelines for the assignment can be found at the end of this course.

Assessments exist throughout the course for you to test your understanding. They are a mix of multiple choice, fill in the blanks, true false, and long answer questions. A grade of 80% or above is required to pass the test. Students have the opportunity to discuss their answers with Atlas faculty as well as retake tests as needed.