Pregnant Student Resources

Overview

In compliance with Title IX\(^1\) and applicable state law, including California Education Code 66281.7, UCLA is committed to the rights and needs of pregnant students and it is the policy of University of California at Los Angeles to not discriminate against or exclude any student on the basis of pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, such as childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom.

Further, under the University of California’s nondiscrimination statement, the University of California does not discriminate on the basis of pregnancy, which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.

A number of University resources are available for this population and this guide offers information about resources for pregnant and parenting students.

Reasonable Accommodations

Pregnant students are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Students who need accommodations related to their pregnancy may request such accommodations by contacting the Center for Accessible Education (CAE).

Exam accommodations shall be provided as necessary. CAE will engage in an interactive process with the student and any involved faculty to ensure the student’s education opportunities are not diminished as a result of pregnancy. Instructors are reminded of their responsibilities for excusing medically necessary absences for pregnancy and related conditions, including childbirth, and making reasonable accommodations in the areas of class sessions, exams, tests, project deadlines, and any other required activities. For graduate students in particular, faculty advisors are reminded of policies regarding parental leave and extensions as outline in the Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study.

While we anticipate that most academic accommodation issues can be resolved quickly between students and faculty, if a mutually satisfactory arrangement cannot be achieved, a student may seek further assistance or file a report with the Title IX Office.

Prohibition against Discrimination and Harassment

UCLA prohibits discrimination or harassment against students based on their pregnancy, as a condition related to sex. Discrimination or harassment related to pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions may be referred to the Title IX Office for appropriate action.

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\(^1\) See also 34 C.F.R. Section 106.
A report of discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex will be handled according to the “Procedures for Handling Allegations of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation.” 

If there is a disability associated with your pregnancy, a student may seek assistance with the ADA Office.

**Campus Resources**
Students with Dependents is an on-campus resource offering support to pregnant and parenting students at UCLA.

FAQs²

1Q. Does UCLA have to excuse my absences due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion?

1A. Yes. Your instructor must excuse absences due to pregnancy/pregnancy-related condition for as long as your doctor says it is necessary for you to be absent. After returning to school, you must be reinstated to the status you held before your leave.

2Q. Can a professor lower my grade because of a class I missed?

2A. A student cannot be penalized for pregnancy or other related conditions. If a professor provides specific points or other advantages to students based on class attendance, you must be given the opportunity to earn back the credit from classes missed due to pregnancy.

Students can work with their instructors to accommodate flexible breastfeeding breaks and students can contact CAE to assist with reasonable accommodations.

3Q. Does my instructor have to let me make up the work I missed while I was absent?

3A. Yes. Your instructor must let you make up the work you missed while you were absent.

4Q. My classmates have made offensive comments to me about my pregnancy. Where can I report this?

4A. If you experience harassment based on your pregnancy, you may report the incident to the Title IX Office. The Title IX Office will discuss the resources and options that you have.

5Q. What if I work as a TA, in addition to being a student? Do I still have the same rights?

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² The following questions and answers are based on the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights publication “Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students” (2013). The information may be accessed here: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html#_Toc4
5A. Your rights as an employee differ from your rights as a student. See the UCLA AAP Manual for further information. You may also want to consult with the UAW in regards to leave and other benefits.

6Q. I am a graduate student. Are there different policies that apply to me?
6A. Your rights as a graduate student are the same as any other student. See the Graduate Division Standard & Procedures for further information about your rights and options as a graduate student.