

Working with Pregnant and Parenting Students



Agenda

Definitions

Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights

Reasonable Modifications

Leaves of Absence

FAQs and Best Practices

Question and Answer Session

Collin College's Liaison Officer for Pregnant and Parenting Students



Amy Throop

Associate Dean Title IX Compliance
Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students

Technical Campus

2550 Bending Branch Way

Suite A004/A006

Allen, TX 75013

Phone: [972.599.3126](tel:972.599.3126)

Email: athroop@collin.edu



Definitions

Pregnancy or Related Condition(s):

In accordance with Title IX, “pregnancy or related conditions” means:

1. Pregnancy, childbirth, loss of pregnancy, or lactation;
2. Medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, loss of pregnancy, or lactation; or
3. Recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, loss of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.



Definitions (Conditions)

Experiencing a Pregnancy-Related Condition(s):

- A pregnant person is considered to be “experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s)” when they are **dealing with ongoing medical issues** from the pregnancy.
- Examples of pregnancy-related conditions include: chronic migraines, depression, fatigue, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), gestational diabetes, persistent morning sickness, severe pelvic bone and/or back pain, and urinary tract or bladder infections.
- Common pregnancy-related conditions that may necessitate reasonable modifications: [The Pregnant Scholar’s List of Conditions and Accommodations](#)



Definitions (Continued)

Parenting Student/Parental Status:

- A student who is the parent or legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age.
- Also covered under Title IX:
 - A student who is caring for a child who is 18 or older but is incapable of self-care because of a physical or mental disability
- Includes:
 - Biological parents
 - Adoptive parents
 - Foster parents
 - Separated/divorced parents and stepparents
 - Legal custodians/guardians
 - Anyone actively seeking legal custody, guardianship, visitation, or adoption of a child



Notes on Definitions



- Neither state nor federal laws require the parent to be living with their child.
- The non-birthing partner of a student who is pregnant and/or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s) will be considered a **parenting student**.
 - These students will **not** be **eligible** for **modifications**.



Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights

- Students who are **pregnant, experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s),** and/or **parenting** have the right to:
 1. Early registration.
 2. Modifications due to pregnancy and/or a pregnancy-related condition(s).
 3. Not be told to drop out or change their educational plans.
 4. Not be harassed due to their pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition(s), and/or parenting status.

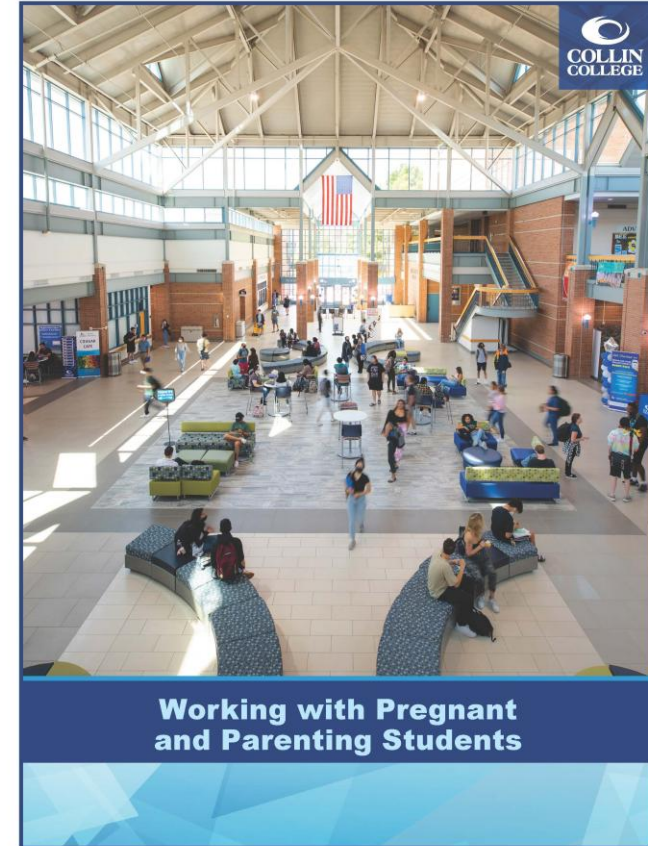


So....

	Pregnant Students	Students Who Are Experiencing a Pregnancy-Related Condition(s)	Parenting Students
Early Registration	✓	✓	✓
Reasonable Modifications	✓	✓	✗
Leave of Absence	✓	✓	✓

Helpful Documents

- ***Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights and Resources***: Contains more details on these students' rights and provides information about resources available on campus and in the community.
- ***Working with Pregnant and Parenting Students***: Contains information that may be helpful for faculty and staff who are assisting these students.
- Available on the [Pregnant and Parenting Students webpage](#).



Informing the Liaison Officer of a Pregnant and/or Parenting Student

Any Collin College employee who is notified of a student's pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition(s), and/or parenting status **should** promptly:

1. Provide that person with the Liaison Officer's **contact information**,
2. Inform that person that the Liaison Officer **can coordinate specific actions** to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to the college's education program or activity, and
3. Notify the Liaison Officer by submitting the ***Pregnant and Parenting Students Information Form.***



Early Registration

- Students who are pregnant, experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s), and/or parenting are eligible to register on the **first day** of **priority registration**.
- To opt into early registration, these students need to submit the [Pregnant and Parenting Students Request for Early Registration Form](#).
- For specific information on registration dates and requirements, see Collin College's [Registration](#) webpage.



Campus Lactation Rooms

- Collin College is **required** to provide a lactation space, which must be a space other than a bathroom that is:
 1. Clean,
 2. Shielded from view,
 3. Free from intrusion by others, and
 4. May be used by a student for expressing breast milk or breastfeeding, as needed.
- Each campus has **at least one (1)** designated lactation room.
- A list of the locations for each campus lactation room and how to access these spaces is available on the [Pregnant and Parenting Students webpage](#).



This Photo by Unknown Author
is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Are students allowed to use wireless breast pumps in class?

- **Yes**
- Wireless breast pumps do not create an excessive amount of noise that would be considered a classroom disruption, and do not cause a risk of exposing the breasts when used correctly.
- Students are **not** required to register with the Title IX Office, ACCESS Office, or receive approved modifications prior to using wireless breast pumps in class.

Are students allowed to bring their children to class?

- **No**
- This is a violation of Board Policy [GD \(LOCAL\)](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Any student who brings their child to class should be referred to the Student Conduct Office for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Additionally, the Collin College Police Department should be **immediately** notified of any unattended children on campus.



Extended Leaves of Absence

- Collin College will permit, but not require, a student who is **pregnant**, **experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s)**, and/or **parenting** to take an extended leave of absence related to their status.
- The student will **not** be required to provide a doctor's certification or documentation to obtain an extended leave of absence.
- When the student returns to Collin College, they must be **reinstated** to the academic status and, as practicable, to the extracurricular status they held when the voluntary leave began without being required to reapply for admission.
- To request an extended leave of absence, these students need to submit the [**Pregnant and Parenting Students Extended Leave of Absence Request Form**](#).



Extended Leave of Absence Duration

	Students Who Are Pregnant and/or Experiencing a Pregnancy-Related Condition(s)	Parenting Students
Title IX	At minimum, the period of time deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider, or As allowed under state laws.	
State Laws	A minimum of one (1) entire semester .	A minimum of one (1) entire semester .



What Are Reasonable Modifications?

- An alteration of environment, curriculum format, or equipment that allows a student who is **pregnant and/or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s)** to gain access to content and/or complete assigned tasks.
- Allow these students to pursue a regular course of study.
- **Do not** alter what is being taught.
- The objective of reasonable modifications is to accommodate the student, **not** to dilute scholastic requirements.



Who Is Eligible for Reasonable Modifications?

- **Only** available:
 1. To students who are **pregnant and/or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s)**.
 2. If the **student requests** them **and** they are **reasonably available**.
 3. After engaging in an **interactive** and **individualized process**.
- **Must** be based on the student's **individualized** needs.
- To request reasonable modifications, these students need to submit the [Pregnancy and Pregnancy-Related Conditions Modifications Application Form](#).



Approving Reasonable Modifications



- The appropriate ACCESS Office staff member will conduct an intake meeting with the student.
 - Each modification available and/or requested by the student will be discussed to ensure it is appropriate and reasonable given their individual situation, and the parameters for each modification will be explained.
 - The student will be allowed to accept or decline each reasonable modification.



Approving Reasonable Modifications (Continued)

- Once reasonable modifications are approved, the appropriate ACCESS Office staff member will send the completed *ACCESS Office Approved Modifications Form for Students Who Are Pregnant and/or Experiencing a Pregnancy-Related Condition(s)* email to the **student** through Collin College email.
- The **student** will then be responsible for sending the form to their professor(s).



Implementing Reasonable Modifications

- It is the faculty member's responsibility to ensure that the modifications determined to be reasonable and approved by the ACCESS Office are provided to the student in a **timely, responsive, and individualized manner**.
- We encourage students to speak with their professors about their modifications.
- We also encourage each faculty member to reach out to the student to discuss implementation of the modifications.



Excused Absences

Students Who Are Pregnant and/or Experiencing a Pregnancy-Related Condition(s):

- Any absences related to pregnancy and/or a pregnancy-related condition(s) **must** be considered medically necessary and excused.
- Collin College will excuse these absences including, but not limited to, childbirth, **without a doctor's certification** that such absence is necessary for **three (3) class days**.
 - The student will not be required to provide a doctor's certification or documentation to obtain these excused absences.
 - Therefore, professors **may not** ask for documentation related to these types of excused absences.
- Students who need to take an excused absence for **longer** than three (3) class days **will be required to provide an appropriate healthcare provider's certification** to obtain these excused absences.
 - The student must have their healthcare provider complete the **ACCESS Office Pregnancy and/or Pregnancy-Related Condition(s) Excused Absence Healthcare Provider's Certification Form**.
 - This form must be on file with the ACCESS Office **prior** to the student taking the excused absence, except in the case of an emergency.
 - The ACCESS Office will notify the student's professors once the completed form is received.



Excused Absences (Continued)

Absences Not Related to a Student's Pregnancy and/or Pregnancy-Related Condition(s):

- Absences that are not related to a student's pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related condition(s) are **not covered** by the excused absences modification.
- These absences should be addressed according to the **attendance/absence policy** stated in the professor's **syllabus**.
- Students who are pregnant and/or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s) are responsible for following the professor's syllabus policies, including, but not limited to, those regarding absences due to issues that are not related to the student's pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related condition(s).



Excused Absences (Continued)

Intermittent Absences for Parenting Students:

- Intermittent absences due to a student's parenting status are **not** covered under federal and state laws.
- These absences will need to be addressed by each professor in accordance with the **absence/attendance policy** stated in their course **syllabus**.



What Can You Do to Assist These Students?

- Listen and encourage
- Be honest
 - Program requirements
 - Class modalities
- Inform them resources are available to assist
- **Do not** coerce or force them to:
 - Change their degree plan
 - Withdraw
- Refer them to the Liaison Officer **and** submit a [Pregnant and Parenting Students Information Form](#)



Questions?



Contact Information



Liaison Officer for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Amy Throop

Office: Technical Campus Suite A004/A006

Phone: 972.599.3126

Email: athroop@collin.edu

Webpage: www.collin.edu/titleix/pregnantandparentingstudents.html

ACCESS Office

Phone: 972.881.5898

Email: access@collin.edu

Webpage: www.collin.edu/studentresources/disabilityservices/

Title IX Office

Email: titleix@collin.edu

Webpage: www.collin.edu/titleix