

Frequently Asked Questions: Student Pregnancy and Related Conditions

A student who is pregnant, who has had a false pregnancy or termination of pregnancy, or who is recovering from any of those conditions may be eligible for accommodations under the Student Policy on Pregnancy and Related Conditions, part of Title IX. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in an education program. Among the types of discrimination covered by this law, Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. Below are some frequently asked questions about The Chicago School's compliance with this component of Title IX.

Where can a student seek assistance for pregnancy-related accommodations?

A student who is pregnant or who has a pregnancy-related condition can visit the [Student Policy on Pregnancy and Related Conditions website](#) and contact the Title IX team at titleix@thechicagoschool.edu to request assistance.

What types of accommodations are available to a student under this policy?

Examples of accommodations include, but are not limited to, excused absences, flexible or extended coursework deadlines, options to make up missed coursework, or the assignment of an incomplete grade in a course. Accommodations are unique to each student, and many factors are considered in determining what is appropriate in an individual case.

How does the process work?

A student who is pregnant or has a pregnancy-related condition should complete the [Student Pregnancy and Related Conditions Accommodations Request Form](#). Once that is received, a member of the Title IX team will contact the student to discuss their needs. If appropriate, the Title IX team will provide the student with an accommodations notice. The student provides the notice to their faculty members for the courses in which they wish to receive accommodations.

How long are accommodations granted?

Accommodations are granted through the end of the student's pregnancy. Accommodations may be available for up to 6 weeks past the student's due date or birth of a child, whichever comes first. A student facing extenuating circumstances related to their pregnancy or related condition may be eligible for additional time with additional documentation. A member of the Title IX team can provide more information.

Does The Chicago School provide maternity leave for students?

No. Should a student who is pregnant or who has a pregnancy-related condition wish to pause their academic program, the student may work with the Title IX team to explore a temporary withdrawal, leave of absence, or official withdrawal with no academic or institutional financial penalties.

Can accommodations be applied retroactively?

Yes. A student may have the ability to apply accommodations to coursework completed in the active term/semester. Contact the Title IX team to discuss options.

Can a student be penalized for using their accommodations? What should they do if they are?

A student receiving accommodations through Title IX cannot be penalized for using accommodations. If a student has been penalized or is not receiving approved accommodations in a course, they should contact the Title IX team immediately.

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Is a student required to disclose their pregnancy or related condition to their faculty members?

While the Title IX team encourages open communication between students and faculty, a student is not required to disclose pregnancy to their academic department, with the exception of students in nursing programs. A student who receives accommodations under Title IX will share a notice with their faculty that states that they are receiving accommodations under the policy, but the notice does not specifically state whether they are pregnant or what their related condition is.

Can a pregnant student and a student with a pregnancy-related condition participate in practicum, internship, and other programs outside of coursework? Is a student required to tell their training site that they are pregnant?

Yes. A pregnant student and a student with pregnancy-related conditions cannot be excluded from University-related off-campus programs such as internships, off-campus activities, or extra-curricular activities due to their pregnancy or related condition. While a student is not required to disclose their status to training sites, The Chicago School encourages open communication with the site and the Office of Placement and Training/Director of Clinical Training for the student's program. Note that Title IX accommodations do not extend to non-Chicago School-managed locations (i.e., practicum, internship, or community partner sites).

Does Title IX cover parenting students?

No. The Student Policy on Pregnancy and Related Conditions policy covers only the pregnant student during pregnancy and for post-pregnancy related conditions. It does not cover non-birth-parent(s) or the resulting child(ren). Parenting students are invited to explore resources on The Chicago School [Community Site](#).

What should a student do if someone makes an offensive or inappropriate remark about a student's pregnancy?

The Chicago School does not tolerate gender-based harassment, including harassment based on pregnancy and related conditions. If a pregnant student experiences harassment based on their pregnancy, they should alert the Title IX team immediately.

Does The Chicago School have designated areas for breastfeeding, pumping, or to address other needs related to breastfeeding throughout the day?

Yes, private rooms are located on the ground campuses. For more information on a specific campus, please contact the Title IX team.

For more information, visit the [Student Pregnancy and Related Conditions website](#), or reach out to titleix@thechicagoschool.edu