Pregnant and Parenting Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Title IX is a federal law that protects members of our campus community from discrimination against pregnant and parenting students on the basis of sex.

The US Department of Education and Office for Civil Rights released new Title IX requirements regarding pregnant and parenting students in June 2013.

The requirements and suggestions include:

- Schools must excuse a student’s absences because of pregnancy or childbirth for as long as the student’s doctor deems the absences medically necessary.
- Absence policies in classes must accommodate pregnancy or childbirth related absences and allow for make-up work. “A teacher may not refuse to allow a student to submit work after a deadline that she missed because of absences due to pregnancy or childbirth. Additionally, if a teacher’s grading is based in part on class attendance or participation, the student should be allowed to earn the credits she missed so that she can be reinstated to the status she had before the leave.”
- “A school may offer the student alternatives to making up missed work, such as retaking a semester, taking part in an online course credit recovery program, or allow the student additional time in a program to continue at the same pace and finish at a later date, especially after longer periods of leave. The student should be allowed to choose how to make up the work.”

If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines the link is provided below:
http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf

Pregnant and Parenting Student Rights

- To equal access to schools and activities
- To choose to participate in separate programs for pregnant or parenting students, not be required by the University
- To be excused for absences due to pregnancy or childbirth for as long as is deemed medically necessary by the student’s physician
- To attend class and school activities without submitting a doctor’s note

Accommodations (may include, but are not limited to those listed):

- Excused or extended absences related to medical appointments, illness related to pregnancy, sick children, exposure issues
- Extended coursework deadlines
Incompletes
Back-dated withdrawals
Elevator keys
Parking permits

Process

The Dean of Students Office will provide assistance to pregnant or parenting students. Students seeking assistance should visit the Dean of Students office in 70 Bascom Hall and ask to speak with the “Drop-In” staff member, call 608-263-5700, or email dean@studentlife.wisc.edu.

Although pregnancy itself is not a disability, pregnancy-related impairments may qualify as disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Examples include pregnancy-related carpal tunnel syndrome, gestational diabetes, pregnancy-related sciatica, and preeclampsia. Students experiencing such impairments may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center, www.mcburney.wisc.edu.

Resources

UHS Counseling and Consultation Services
608-265-5600 (option 2)
333 East Campus Mall, Floor 7
uhs.wisc.edu
24-Hour Crisis Services: 608-265-5600 (option 9)

UHS Medical Services (including the Women’s Clinic)
608-265-5600
333 East Campus Mall, Floors 5 and 6
uhs.wisc.edu
24-Hour Nurse Line: 608-265-5600 (option 1)

Dean of Students Office
608-263-5700
70 Bascom Hall
students.wisc.edu/doso
dean@studentlife.wisc.edu

Campus Women’s Center
608-262-8093
333 East Campus Mall, Room 4416
win.wisc.edu/organization/campuswomenscenter
cwc.volunteer@gmail.com
Filing an Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Complaint

If there has been an act of discrimination on the basis of sex against any person or group in a program or activity that receives Department of Education financial assistance, that person or group may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) under Title IX. The person or organization filing the complaint need not be a victim of the alleged discrimination but may be affected by a general “hostile sexual environment” or complain on behalf of another person or group. A complaint should be sent to the OCR enforcement office that serves the state in which the alleged discrimination occurred. The contact information for the Chicago regional office is: Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 240 Chicago, IL 60601 Customer Response Center: (800) 368-1019 Fax: (202) 619-3818 TDD: (800) 537-7697 Email: ocrmail@hhs.gov