

services for students. Contact the Title IX coordinator or campus Women's Center to find out more about your school's policies.

Finally, some states have their own laws that provide greater protections. You should talk to a lawyer to find out more about your state's laws.

Can your school require you to provide medical documentation for pregnancy-related absences? Do you have the right to be reinstated to the status you held before your absence?

Yes. Your school must excuse your absences due to pregnancy and related conditions. This includes absences for labor, delivery, and recovery, as well as prenatal appointments. Absences must be excused for pregnancy-related reasons even if your school does not excuse absences for students with other medical conditions. Your school must excuse your pregnancy-related absence for as long as your doctor says is necessary. When you return to school, your school must reinstate you to the status you held before your absence. Your school can require a doctor's note, *but only* if it requires the same for students with other medical conditions.

Can your school penalize you for pregnancy-related absences? Can you be required to make up missed classwork or earn back credit from classes you miss due to pregnancy?

No. You cannot be penalized for pregnancy or related conditions. If a professor provides "points" to students based on class attendance, they must give you a chance to earn back the credit from classes you miss due to pregnancy. They must also return you to the status you held before you were absent.

Does your school have a policy for pregnancy-related absences? Can you be required to make up missed classwork or earn back credit from classes you miss due to pregnancy?

Yes. If you miss class for pregnancy-related reasons or childbirth, your school has to give you a chance to make

How does Title IX affect pregnancy and related conditions? Can Title IX require a school to provide accommodations for pregnancy-related absences?

Title IX bans sex discrimination in schools that get federal funds. Sex includes pregnancy and all related conditions like abortion. Most colleges get federal funds through financial aid programs like Pell grants and Stafford loans. This means that colleges must give all students who might be, are, or have been pregnant the same access to classes and programs that other students have. Your professors or school officials should not tell you to drop out or change your educational plans because you are pregnant or gave birth.

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First, look at how your school treats pregnant students compared to students with temporary medical conditions. Title IX says schools must offer pregnant students the same benefits they offer to students with temporary illnesses or injuries. There is one exception to this rule. No matter its policy for other students, your school must excuse any class you miss for pregnancy-related reasons.

Also your school must have a Title IX Coordinator. This person should be able to answer questions about Title IX and your school's policies. The Title IX Coordinator cannot be biased when they evaluate Title IX violations. Your school may also have its own rules or support

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Professors do not have the right to break the law. Title IX says schools must make sure that all faculty and sta

scholarships based on pregnancy. If you stay in good standing in your program, you must be allowed to keep your scholarship.

Can I take a leave of absence from my program to care for my child? Can I take a leave of absence from my program to care for my child?

Not necessarily. It depends on the leave policy at your school. If you want to take off more time than your doctor says is medically necessary, you will need to consult your school's non-medical leave policy.

Can I register as an independent student if the child's due date is in the award year (July 1 to June 30) and you will be providing at least half of the support to the child? Can I register as an independent student if the child's due date is in the award year (July 1 to June 30) and you will be providing at least half of the support to the child?

You can register as an "independent student" if the child's due date is in the award year (July 1 to June 30) and you will be providing at least half of the support to the child. When filling out the form, count your child toward the household size if the due date is within that award year—even if they have not been born when you file. Keep a copy of an ultrasound and other medical records in case FAFSA audits your application.

Can I be fired from my job because I am pregnant? Can I be fired from my job because I am pregnant?

Your rights as an employee are different from your rights as a student. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act protect you from employment discrimination. You cannot be fired from your graduate assistantship because you are pregnant. Also, you may be eligible for family or medical leave as a university employee. You may also qualify for parental leave under the university's policy. Speak to your school's Human Resources department for more info on the parental leave policy.

Note: Your employee parental leave may allow you to take more time off from work than your doctor recommends. But Title IX only allows you to take as much time off from class as your doctor recommends.

Can I get a leave of absence from my program to care for my child? Can I get a leave of absence from my program to care for my child?

Unfortunately, no. Although the U.S. Department of Education recommends that schools offer childcare to students, your school is not required to provide them by law. Check your university's program offerings to see if they provide these services for students. If they do not, you can tell your school about the availability of CCAMPIS grants to schools that want to offer campus-based childcare. Also, see the resources section for more info on federal programs for low-income parents. Your state may have additional programs as well.

Can I get a leave of absence from my program to care for my child? Can I get a leave of absence from my program to care for my child?

The U.S. Department of Education recommends that all universities have private rooms for students to breastfeed or pump milk during the school day. Also, the Affordable Care Act requires your university to provide a space for employees to pump. This space cannot be a bathroom. If you are a university employee, the university must give you space to breastfeed or pump. If you are not an employee, you should ask your Title IX Coordinator if you can access the breast pumping rooms. For more info, read the [breastfeeding and lactation support fact sheet](#) included in this toolkit.

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