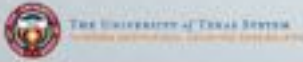


# Pregnancy & Other Related Conditions

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## Agenda

1. Title IX Intro
2. Title IX Pregnancy Protections
  - Student Protections
  - Employees Protections
3. Other Related Laws
4. Unique Cases
5. Hypotheticals & Examples
6. Documentations and Case Management

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Introduction

TITLE IX

Key Concepts & Framework

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IX

**Title IX (Educational Amendments of 1972)** prohibits discrimination **on the basis of sex** in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance

Anyone participating in or attempting to participate in educational programs or activities

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**Title IX**



Sex Discrimination  
Sexual Harassment  
Retaliation




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**How  
Does Pregnancy  
Fit In?**



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Title IX also prohibits discrimination based on **pregnancy** and other related conditions...



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## Statistics

- Student-Parents are **10x less likely** to graduate college on time than their peers without children.
- **Without a degree**, women (who make up nearly 60% of all U.S. college students) could face long-running **financial losses**.
- Women with a **bachelor's degree** earn an average of **\$450,000 more** in median lifetime earnings than their peers with a **high school degree**.

U.S Department of Education, 2013; Tamborini,, Chang, and Sakamoto. 2015. "Education and Lifetime Earnings in the United States." *Demography* 52: 1383–1407.

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Title IX prohibits discrimination based on a student or employee's "actual or potential" status:



Schools must give students who might be, are, or have been **pregnant** equal access to school programs and extracurricular activities.



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Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students,  
U.S. Department of Education (OCR), 2013

# Equal Participation



An institution shall not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activities, based on such student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom, unless the person **voluntarily participates** in a separate program or activity of the institution.

Title IX 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(1)



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# Separate Programs

An institution which operates a portion of its education program or activity **separately** for pregnant students, admittance to which is completely voluntary on the part of the student as provided in paragraph (b)(1) of this section (*Equal Participation*) shall ensure that the separate portion is **comparable** to that offered to non-pregnant students.

Title IX 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(3)



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## Examples of Student-related Impacts & Needs

Class Attendance & Participation

Excused Absences

Make-up Coursework

Tutoring Accommodations

Breast Milk Expression

Extracurricular Activities

Intercollegiate Sports

Scholarship Status



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Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students,  
U.S. Department of Education (OCR), 2013

## Classes & Activities

The school must excuse a student's absences due to pregnancy or any related conditions for as long as their doctor says it is medically necessary for the person to be absent.

A student cannot be penalized for pregnancy or other related conditions.

There must be an equal opportunity given to earn credit from missed classes/assignments due to pregnancy.



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## Doctor's Notes

The school cannot require a student to submit a **doctor's note** unless the school requires a doctor's note **from all students** who have a physical or emotional condition requiring treatment by a doctor, or for being hospitalized for other conditions.

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# Leave of Absence

In the case of an institution which does not maintain a leave policy for its students, or the case of a student who does not otherwise qualify for leave under such a policy, an institution shall trust pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and recovery therefrom as a justification for a leave of absence for so long a period as it is deemed **medically necessary**.

Title IX 34CFR§ 106.40(b)(5)



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## Make-up Coursework & Reinstated Status

The school must allow the student to return to the **same academic and extracurricular status** as before their medical leave began, which should include giving the student the opportunity to make up any work missed while out.



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## Student Hypothetical Part 1

Jin, a second-year undergraduate student, is in her third trimester and is due at the end of the semester. Jin has been missing classes continually due to medical issues from the pregnancy and frequent doctor's appointments as a result.

Jin isn't sure how to handle her absences or what accommodations are available.



## Examples of Make-up Coursework and Academic Alternatives

Flexible Attendance	Extensions on Coursework Deadlines	Reschedule Exam(s)	Re-weigh Curriculum Coursework %
Alternative Assignments	Independent Study	Extra Credit Coursework	Remote Participation (Zoom/Teams)
	Change Course to Pass/Fail Status	Reduced Courseload Status	

## Student Hypothetical Part 2

Jin is due at the end of the semester. Jin has missed classes and assignments continually due to ongoing medical issues from the pregnancy. Jin's professors have all provided Jin with multiple opportunities to make-up assignments and exams.

In one of her classes, Jin has only completed about 25% of the coursework, even with the opportunities offered by the professor to allow Jin to make-up the coursework missed. There is only one week left of classes, and Jin is due for delivery at the end of the week. Jin says she is unable to make-up the remaining coursework by the end of the semester and asks for an incomplete for the course so she can make-up the remaining work next semester.

The professor typically only considers giving incompletes when the student has completed more than half (>50% of the coursework, and is unsure what to do.



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## End of Semester Academic Options

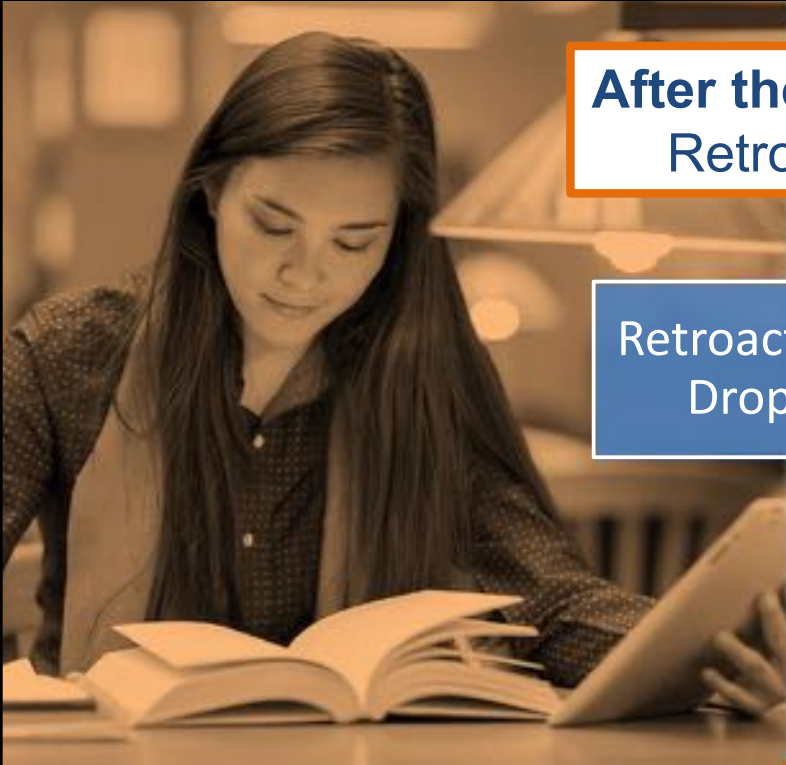
Dropping the Course (w/o academic penalty)

Withdrawal from All Classes (w/o academic penalty)

Incomplete Grade (w/ instructor's approval)

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## After the Semester Ends Retroactive Options

### Retroactive Drop

### Retroactive Withdrawal

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## Employee Protections Based on Pregnancy or Related Condition

**Title IX** prohibits sex discrimination of employees in education programs or activities, including pregnancy or related status.

**Title VII** as amended by the **Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA)**, which prohibits employment discrimination based on:

- Current pregnancy
- Past pregnancy
- Potential or intended pregnancy
- Medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth



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## Examples of Employee-related Impacts & Needs

Work-related Accommodations due to pregnancy or related needs

Excused Work Absences (Paid or Unpaid Leave)

Changes in the Work Environment

Alternative Participation Options

Breast Milk Expression



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## Employees: Family Medical Leave (FML)

FML is a benefit that provides eligible employees **up to 12 workweeks of unpaid leave a year** and requires group health benefits to be maintained during leave, as if employees continued to work instead of taking leave.

Employees are entitled to return to their **same or an equivalent job** at the end of their FML.



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## Staff Hypothetical

Avery, a non-binary staff member, is 4 months pregnant. As their pregnancy progresses, Avery finds it difficult to fit at their office desk and concentrate. The Dept Supervisor approved for Avery to move to a larger office for more space and a bigger-framed desk to accommodate Avery's temporary physical needs.

Subsequently, a few of the other staff in the office expressed concerns among each other that Avery is just receiving special treatment because of Avery's gender identity and pregnancy status. These staff members start excluding Avery from Dept emails, meetings, and other Dept functions.

Avery brought these concern to the Dept Supervisor two months ago, but Avery hasn't seen or experienced any adjustments from the Supervisor or the staff members yet.



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### ADA/Section 504

Federal law prohibits **disability discrimination** and requires institutions to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with a disability. Applicable for students and employees.

A **disability** under ADA/504 is

1. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities;
2. A person who has a history or record of such an impairment; or
3. A person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.



Pregnancy itself is **not** a disability, but **complications from pregnancy or childbirth** may qualify.



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## Temporary Disability Policies

An institution shall treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination or recovery therefrom in the same manner and under the same policies as any other **temporary disability** with respect to any medical or hospital benefit, service, plan or policy which such institution administers, operates, offers, or participates in with respect to students admitted to the institution's educational program or activity.

Title IX 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(4)



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## Student Examples of Temporary Disability Accommodations

Scribe for Exams

Notetaking Assistance

Audio Recorder for Lectures

Extended Test Time

Computer for Essay Exams

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Flexible Attendance	Extensions on Coursework Deadlines	Reschedule Exam(s)	Re-weigh Curriculum Coursework %	Alternative Assignments
Independent Study	Extra Credit Coursework	Remote Participation (Zoom/Teams)	Change Course to Pass/Fail Status	Reduced Courseload Status
	Dropping the Course (w/o academic penalty)	Withdrawal from All Classes (w/o academic penalty)	Incomplete Grade (w/ instructor's approval)	

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**Unique Student Cases**

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# Medical Certification



An institution may require such a student to obtain the **certification of a physician** that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue participation so long as such certification is **required of all students** for other physical or emotional conditions requiring the attention of a physician.

Title IX 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(2)

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# Clinical Students

- Pregnant students are allowed to continue participating in off-campus programs.
- If their program provides opportunities to work in the field, the program cannot deny participation based on pregnancy.
- Provide **reasonable adjustments** such as a larger desk or elevator access.



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## Clinical Students

- If a school does not have a leave policy, it must treat pregnancy and recovery therefrom as a justification for a leave of absence for so long as it is deemed **medically necessary**.
- The student must be reinstated to the status which was held when the leave began.



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## Clinical Students

- Programs cannot require a **doctor's note** for continued participation unless the school requires the same for all students who have a **medical condition**.
- If a student's doctor says participation is unsafe, the school must give them a chance to make-up assignment later.
- **Hospitals** that have a contractual arrangement formally integrating students through their education program, the hospital must also adhere to Title IX.



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## Clinical Hypothetical

Jamie is enrolled in an accelerated dentistry program. Two months into the year-long program she finds out she is pregnant. The program has a strict absence policy based on required classes and clinicals. If a student misses more than two days of classes or clinicals, the student will be dismissed from the program.

The absence rule concerns Jamie since she has already missed 2 days of clinicals due to pregnancy-related sickness and she will need to miss a portion of her clinicals again due to additional doctor's appointments related to her pregnancy. Jamie looked at her program's course syllabus and there were no explicit exceptions or modifications addressed regarding pregnancy or related conditions.



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## Student-Athletes

- A student-athlete with a pregnancy-related condition must be provided with the same types of **modifications** provided to other student-athletes.
- Student-athletes may continue participating in their sport as a pregnant student or apply for a **red shirt season** (if pregnant).



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## Student-Athletes

- Student-athletes can obtain the **medical certification** of a physician that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue participation in the normal education program or activity.
- A student-athlete's physician should make **medical decisions** regarding sports participation.



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## Student-Athletes

- Pregnant student-athletes cannot be harassed due to pregnancy.
- **Athletic financial awards** cannot be conditioned on not becoming pregnant.
- A pregnant student athlete's financial award is protected during the term of award.
- A student-athlete who has taken a leave for pregnancy-related condition must be reinstated.



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## Participation Heavy Courses

- The school must **excuse** a student's absences due to pregnancy or any related conditions if their doctor say it's **medically necessary** to be absent.
- The school must allow the student an **opportunity** to make-up the coursework missed while they were out due to pregnancy or other related conditions.



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## Participation Heavy Courses

- If there are "specific points or grades" assigned to **attendance or participation**, a student cannot be penalized when missing classes or participation based on pregnancy or other related conditions.
- There must be an equal opportunity given to **earn credit** from missed participation due to pregnancy.



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## Parenting- Partner Hypothetical

Zach's partner gave birth to their child two weeks ago, and his partner is still recovering from the complications with the delivery. As a result, Zach has been missing classes to care for his partner and assist with her doctor's appointments and the immediate check-ups necessary for the newborn. Being that he is a senior neuroscience major, many of his classes are lab focused and are heavily based on attendance and lab participation.

Due to his absences, he is at risk of failing his senior year and will be unable to graduate on time. Additionally, in attempts to talk with his professors, he was told that since he wasn't the one physically pregnant, then there wasn't an academic requirement that Zach's absences allowed for make-up lab work.



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## Faculty Hypothetical

Madison is a faculty member that is 5 months pregnant. After a recent doctor's appointment, she was advised to be on bed rest due to some high-risk factors emerging in the pregnancy.

Madison informed her Dept Chair of her medical status for remaining on bed rest at this time, and the Chair was supportive of the temporary leave. Subsequently, Madison has also been granted an extension for her tenure review.

A year later (post-extension), Madison's tenure was denied, citing there was a lack of scholarly quality and output. Madison is reclassified as clinical faculty (non-tenure), which will unlikely progress toward any faculty advancement in this new classification.



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# Breastfeeding Challenges

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BREASTFEEDING CHALLENGES

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# Breastfeeding Challenges

- Time
- A Safe Space
- Accommodations
- Free from Harassment
- Finding A Pump or Other Support

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BREASTFEEDING CHALLENGES

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## Time

Many universities don't have formal policies relating to lactation, but if a lactating student must miss class, they shouldn't be penalized.

If lactating students have difficulty getting excused from absences for breastfeeding, they may need to provide a doctor's note stating that it is **medically necessary** for the student to pump on a certain schedule.

Grades cannot be lowered due to poor attendance. Lactating students must be given the chance to make up work.

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## A Safe Space

The Department of Education currently encourages\* schools to provide lactating students with a **private room** to pump or breastfeed, but Title IX doesn't give further guidance on specifics of lactation room for students.

If other students are given access to private space, refrigerators, or electrical outlets to address non-pregnancy/childbirth-related medical conditions, then lactating students should be given the same special services to address their lactation-related needs.

The institution **cannot** delegate a **private room** to pump or breastfeed to be a **bathroom**.

*\*Under the 2022 Title IX Proposed Regulations: A private room will be **required** (not just "encouraged"). Though the proposed regulations are not in effect at the time of this training.*

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## Accommodations

The school must accommodate any **lactation-related impairments**, such as serious infections, as with other **medical conditions** and accommodations.

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## Free from Harassment

The school must protect students from pregnancy or nursing-related harassment or other discrimination, including having **policies** that prohibit sex discrimination, and having **grievance procedures** to respond to complaints.

**Comments** that may constitute prohibited harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Making sexual comments or jokes about the person's pregnancy;
- Calling the person sexually charged names;
- Spreading rumors about the person's sexual activity;
- Making sexual propositions or gestures toward the person

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## Finding a Pump & Other Support

The **Affordable Care Act** requires most health insurers to cover the cost of a breast pump and counseling on breastfeeding.

The **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** also provides pumps and other breastfeeding benefits.

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## Breastfeeding Hypothetical

Celina, a graduate student, recently delivered her baby two months ago. At the beginning of the semester, Celina approached one of her professors about needing to miss class periodically due to Celina's lactation/pumping schedule, and the professor said, "*We'll figure something out.*"

Since then, Celina has missed parts of the class discussions, and two quizzes. When Celina attempted to make-up the quizzes and participation, the professor said that there will not be any make-up work, and the professor will just adjust the grading % to the other portions of coursework (e.g., research paper, end of semester exam).

Celina responds to the professor, saying that she prefers to make up the missed work instead. Since there are no academic policies regarding excusing absences for lactating students, the professor says they have discretion on how to make class accommodations, as long as it's "fair" and "reasonable."



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## Harassment Hypothetical

Tyler, a non-binary undergraduate student, is 5 months pregnant. In one of Tyler's classes, several of Tyler's classmates have made speculative comments and/or used derogatory language on multiple occasions to Tyler about what Tyler's baby will call Tyler (e.g. "Mister Mom," etc.)

Tyler is now skipping this class to avoid these verbal comments from classmates and has missed 4 classes over the past two weeks. As a result, Tyler has missed taking a class quiz and missed a course assignment deadline. If Tyler doesn't complete this remaining coursework, Tyler will fail the course.



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## TIXC Documentation & Record Keeping - Examples

- Professor Notifications
- Supervisor Notifications
- Doctor Documentation regarding absences that are "medically necessary"
- Any other coordinated supportive measures or assistance



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## Inclusive Language and Policies

- Language in various **laws** regarding pregnancy is generally not gender-inclusive.
- Students and employees of **many gender identities**, including cisgender women, non-binary people and transgender men, might be pregnant or have the capability to become pregnant.
- Regardless of a student or employee's gender-identity, the person is protected through their status as a **pregnant person**.



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## Q & A



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