

Krista Anderson, Systemwide Title IX Coordinator

Spring 2024 (as of February 6, 2024)

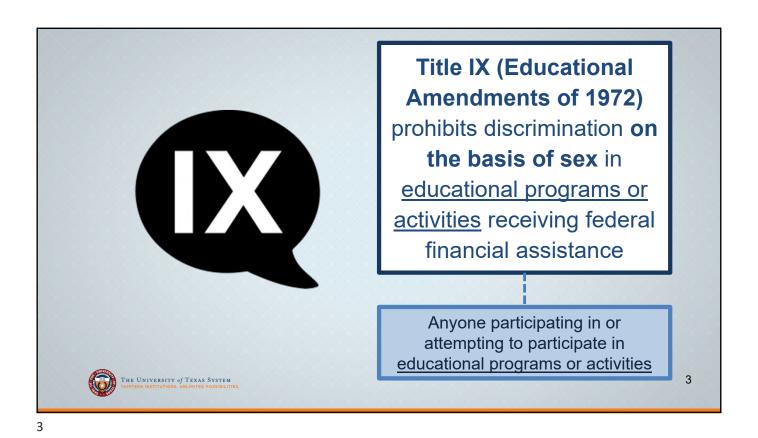


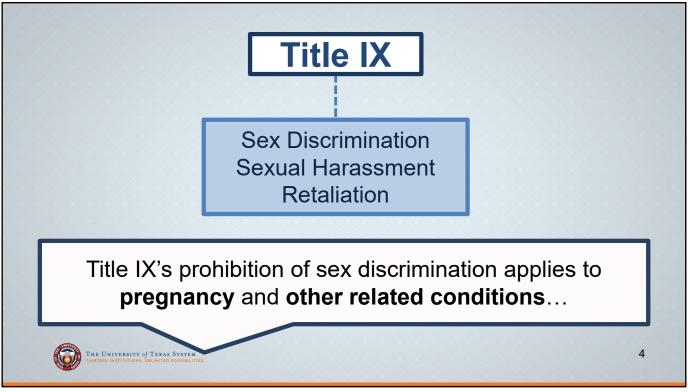
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# Agenda 1. Title IX & 2. Pregnan • Studen Circum • Employ 3. Other Re 4. Docume Manage

- 1. Title IX & State Laws
- 2. Pregnancy Protections
  - Student Protections & Unique Student Circumstances
  - Employee Protections
- 3. Other Related Laws
- Documentations and Case Management

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# SB 412 Pregnancy and Parenting Policy for Students



- SB 412 requires IHE to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant students relating to pregnancy, childbirth, or any resulting medical status or condition.
- SB 412 allows pregnant or parenting students (parent or legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age) academic leave of absence without penalty, if in good academic standing.
- SB 412 requires institutions to have a **policy** addressing pregnant and parenting related discrimination and accommodations available for this student population.
- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) must adopt rules to administer SB 412, including <u>minimum and maximum periods</u> for which a pregnant or parenting student must be given a <u>leave of absence</u>. (TBD at this time)
- SB 412 is effective as of September 1, 2023, and the institution's <u>pregnancy and parenting non-discrimination policy</u> is effective as of <u>January 15, 2024</u>.



Tex. Edu. Code, Section 51.982

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# SB 459 and HB 1361 Student-Parent Eligible Services



- SB 459 requires institutions to provide **early registration** to <u>parenting students</u> (parent or legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age), if the IHE provides early registration for any groups of students. This applies beginning with registration for a course or program for the 2024 Spring semester (and each semester or term thereafter)
- HB 1361 requires institutions to have a designated institutional liaison for parenting students, and institutional reporting requirements to the THECB May of each year.
- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) must adopt rules to administer these bills. (TBD at this time)
- SB 459 and HB 1361 are effective as of September 1, 2023.



Tex. Edu. Code, Section 51.983; Tex. Edu. Code, Section 51.9357

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

Parental status

Marital status

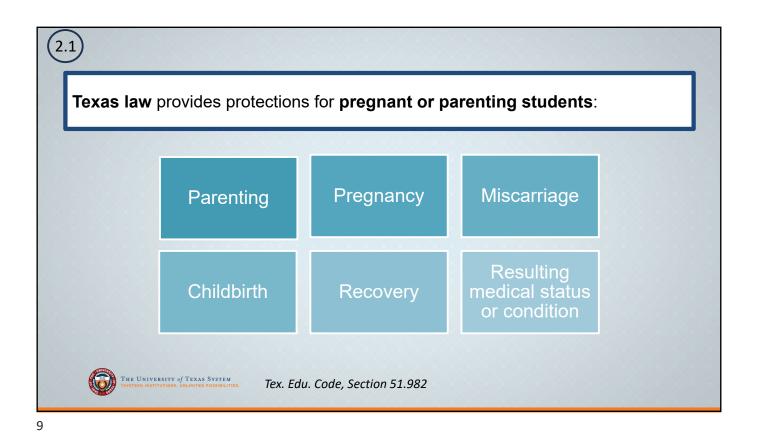
Pregnancy

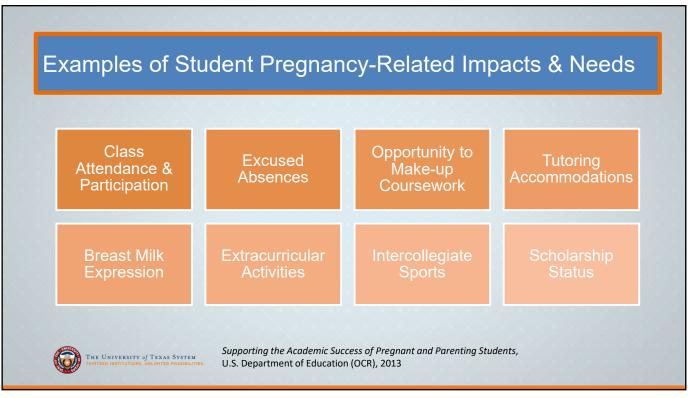
Childbirth

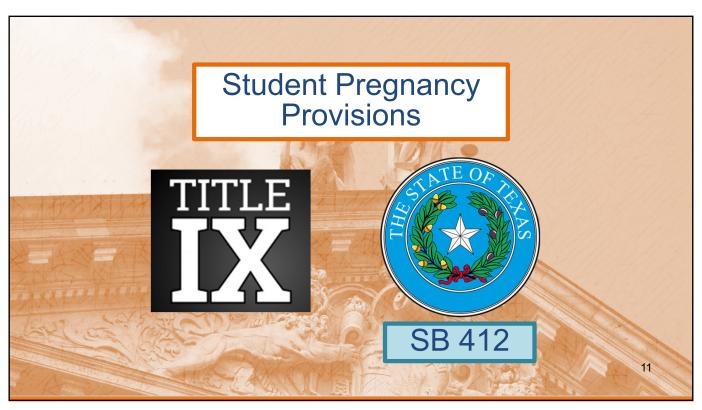
Miscarriage

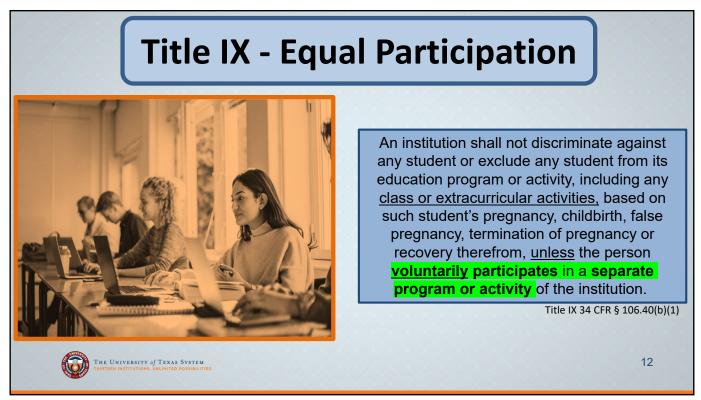
Temporary disability resulting from pregnancy

Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students, U.S. Department of Education (OCR), 2013
Title IX 34 CFR § 106.40; § 106.57









# **Title IX - 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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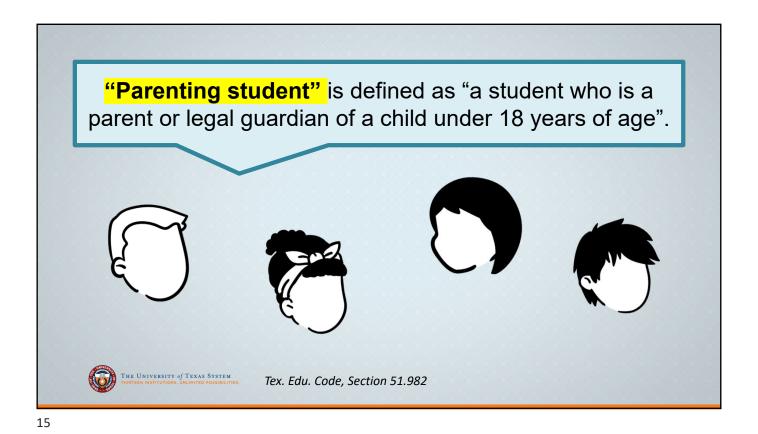
#### **Texas Law Provisions**

Institutions may not require a **pregnant or parenting student**, <u>solely because</u> of the student's status as a pregnant or parenting student or due to issues related to the student's pregnancy or parenting, to:

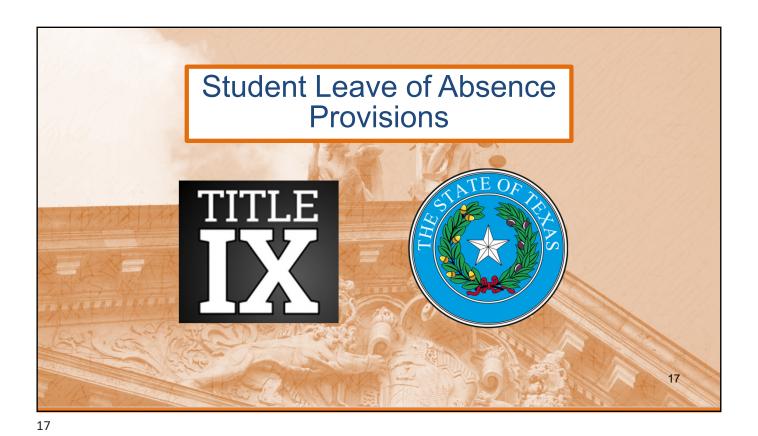
- Take a leave of absence or withdraw from the student's degree or certificate program;
- Limit the student's studies;
- Participate in an alternative program;
- Change the student's major, degree, or certification program; or
- Refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the institution.



Tex. Edu. Code, Section 51.982(b)







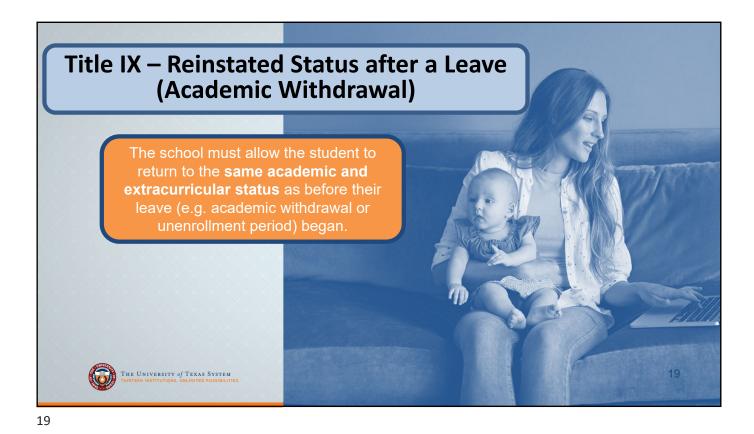
Title IX - Leave of Absence (Academic Withdrawal)

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 treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and recovery therefrom as a justification for a leave of absence (e.g. withdrawal from classes or otherwise not enrolled for a period of time) for so long a period as it is deemed medically necessary.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEMITIE IX 34CFR§ 106.40(b)(5)

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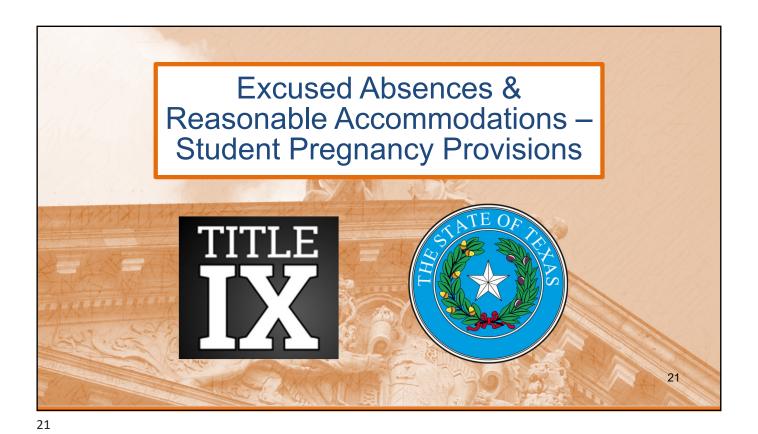
# Texas Law Leave of Absence Provisions

#### Institutions must allow a pregnant or parenting student to:

- · Take a leave of absence; and
- If in <u>good academic standing</u> at the time of the leave of absence, <u>return</u> to the student's degree or certificate program in good academic standing <u>without being</u> required to reapply for admission.



Tex. Edu. Code, Section 51.982(e)



Title IX — Excused Absences & Opportunity to Make-up Coursework

The school must excuse a student's absences due to pregnancy or any related conditions.

A student cannot be penalized for missing class due to 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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#### **ADA/Section 504**

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

Applicable for <u>students</u> and <u>employees</u>.

A disability under ADA/504 is

- A <u>physical or mental impairment</u> that substantially limits one or more **major life** activities:
- 2. A person who has a <u>history or record</u> of such an impairment; or
- 3. A person who is <u>perceived by others</u> as having such an impairment.



Pregnancy itself is <u>not</u> a disability, but <u>complications</u> from pregnancy or childbirth may qualify.



Under ADA, accommodations that constitute <u>undue hardship</u> are not reasonable.

#### Texas Law Reasonable Accommodation Provisions

Institutions must provide **reasonable accommodations** to a pregnant student, including accommodations that:

- Would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition; or
- Are related to the <u>health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child</u>, such
  as allowing the student to maintain a safe distance from substances, areas, and
  activities known to be hazardous or pregnant individuals or unborn children.



Tex. Edu. Code, Section 51.982(d)

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#### **Texas Law Provisions (Cont.)**

Institutions must, for reasons related to a student's pregnancy, childbirth, or any resulting medical status or condition:

- Excuse the student's absences;
- Allow the student to make up missed assignments or assessments;
- Allow the student <u>additional time to complete assignments</u> in the same manner as the institution allows for a student with a temporary medical condition; and
- Provide the student with <u>access to instructional materials and video recordings</u> of lectures for classes for which the student has an excused absence (under this section) to the same extent that instructional materials and video recordings of lectures are made available to any other student with an excused absence.



Tex. Edu. Code, Section 51.982(e)



Examples of Make-up Coursework and Academic Alternatives Extensions on Re-weigh Flexible Reschedule Coursework Curriculum Attendance Exam(s) Deadlines Coursework % Remote Alternative Independent Extra Credit Participation Assignments Study Coursework (Zoom/Teams) Change Course Reduced to Pass/Fail Courseload Status Status Not all of these examples may be reasonable or available, 28 depending on the circumstances or course.

## 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 periodically 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.

Check the institution's Student Pregnancy and Parenting Nondiscrimination Policy for requesting <u>reasonable accommodations</u> through the designated office.



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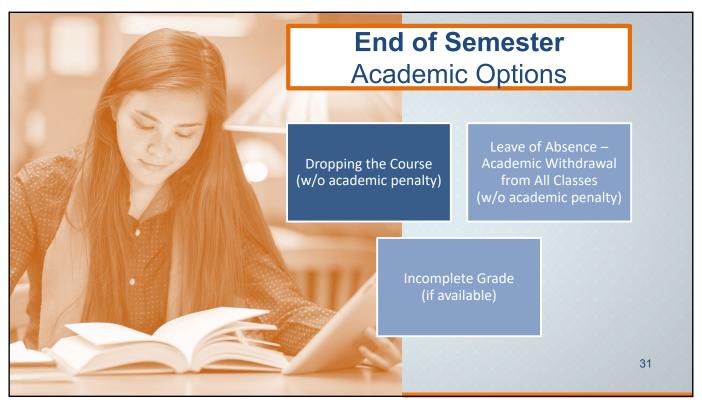
## Student Hypothetical Part 2

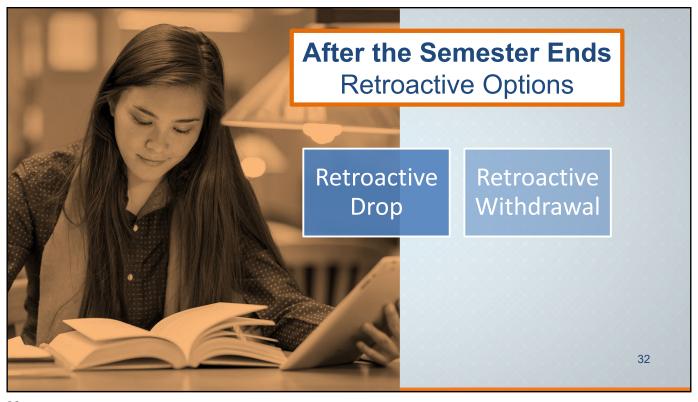


Jin is due at the end of the semester. Jin has missed classes and assignments periodically due to <u>ongoing medical issues</u> from the pregnancy. Jin's professors have all provided Jin with multiple opportunities to make-up assignments and exams.

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 <a href="incomplete">incomplete</a> 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.







JJ





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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## Clinicals & Cohort Programs

#### · Continued Participation:

- 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.

#### Reasonable Accommodations:

- Provide reasonable accommodations and allow for make-up work, as applicable to the student's circumstances.
- If situations in class or clinicals are deemed unsafe for pregnant students, the student must be allowed to make-up work later or find a reasonable accommodation for the circumstances.

#### Leave of Absence:

- The pregnant student can take a **leave of absence** (withdrawal from classes), if clinicals cannot be completed by end of term.
- The student must be **reinstated** to the status which was held when the leave began.
- Hospitals and clinics that have a <u>contractual arrangement</u> formally integrating students through their education program, these facilities must also adhere to Title IX compliance.



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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 with required classes and clinicals, in accordance with the program's accreditation requirements. If a student misses more than 2 days of classes or clinicals, the student will be dismissed from the program.

# Clinical Hypothetical

The absence rule concerns Jamie since she has already missed 2 days of clinicals due to pregnancy-related conditions 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.

Through an interactive process with the student, faculty, and/or the program's coordinator, explore whether <u>reasonable</u> <u>accommodations</u> can be identified based on the student's circumstances.



An alternative can also be a <u>leave of absence</u> (academic withdrawal from classes w/o penalty) and be reinstated to the <sub>36</sub> same academic status before the leave.

### Student-Athletes

#### Continued Sport Participation:

- Pregnant student-athletes may continue participating in their sport or apply for a red shirt season (if pregnant).
- 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 <u>student-athlete's physician</u> should make <u>medical</u> <u>recommendations</u> regarding sports participation, not the coaches.

#### Leave of Absence:

- The pregnant student-athlete can take a **leave of absence** from the athletics program due to pregnancy or related conditions.
- The student must be **reinstated** to the <u>student-athlete status</u> which was held when the leave began.

#### Financial Awards:

 Athletic financial awards <u>cannot</u> be conditioned on not becoming pregnant and are <u>protected</u> during the term of award.



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## Participation Heavy Courses

#### Participation-Based Grading:

- If there are "specific points or grades" assigned to attendance or participation, a student <u>cannot</u> <u>be penalized</u> when missing classes or participation based on pregnancy or related conditions.
- Provide reasonable accommodations and allow for make-up work due to pregnancy or related conditions, as applicable to the student's circumstances.
- <u>Academic alternatives</u> to participating in class may be reasonable, if it's not a fundamental alteration to the curriculum or otherwise an undue hardship.





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Scout is enrolled in a chemistry course that includes exposure to various chemicals for experiments, and grades are based heavily on attendance and lab participation.

# Lab Hypothetical

Scout asks the professor to complete their labs remotely (Zoom) with another student facilitating Scout's experiments in person simultaneously in real time, under Scout's direction (to demonstrate her knowledge/comprehension of the course). The professor doesn't usually allow for alternative lab participation but also doesn't think it's safe for a pregnant student to be exposed to chemicals. The professor recommends that Scout drop the course and re-take in the future.

Through an interactive process with the student and faculty, explore whether <u>reasonable accommodations</u> can be identified based on the student's circumstances. Are there any reasonable alternatives available?



<u>Dropping the class</u> or taking a <u>leave of absence</u> (academic withdrawal from classes w/o penalty) are alternatives, voluntary to the student. 39

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## Labs/Chemical Exposure

- · Health and Safety Restrictions:
  - Faculty can <u>recommend</u> but <u>cannot restrict</u> pregnant students from chemical or disease exposure in lab settings; <u>cannot impose penalties</u> for pregnant students who choose to abstain from chemical or disease exposure.
  - Reasonable restrictions for <u>health & safety</u> are permitted (as determined by a <u>physician or doctor's note, voluntarily</u> provided by the student).
- Reasonable Accommodations:
  - Provide **reasonable accommodations** and allow for makeup work, as applicable to the student's circumstances.
  - If situations in class or labs are deemed unsafe for pregnant students, the student must be allowed to make-up work later or find a reasonable accommodation for the circumstances.



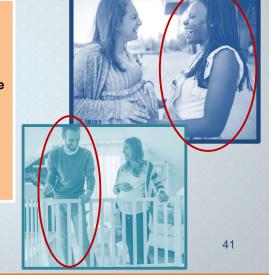


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# Co-Prospective Parent (Non-Pregnant Person)

#### Co-Prospective Parent:

- Under Title IX or state law, there are <u>no provisions</u> that require schools to provide reasonable accommodations to <u>parenting students</u> or the <u>co-prospective parent (non-pregnant person)</u> that is also a student.
- Under state law, parenting students are eligible for a leave of absence (academic withdrawal from classes).
- Other circumstances:
  - Processes relating to adoption, fostering, or fertility are not explicitly addressed under Title IX or state law, but schools have discretion on how to apply reasonable accommodations and leaves of absence under these circumstances.





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## Children in the Classroom

#### Childcare:

- Under Title IX or state law, there are no requirements permitting student's children in the classroom.
- Children in the classroom can **interfere** with the learning environment.
- Childcare, itself, is <u>not</u> considered "medically necessary" under Title IX.
- There are no requirements under Title IX for schools to provide <u>childcare</u> for students or <u>excuse absences</u> due to lack of childcare available.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM THIRTEEN INSTITUTIONS, UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES.

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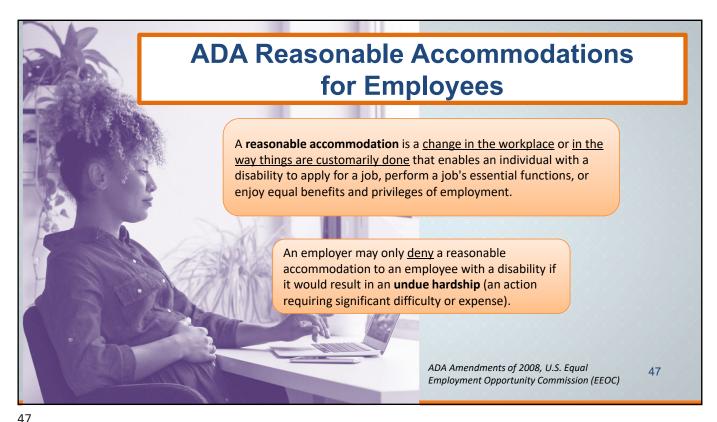




Employees: Family Medical Leave (FML)

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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# ADA Reasonable Accommodations (Employee-Related Examples)

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Redistributing marginal functions (i.e. non-fundamental/non-essential job duties).

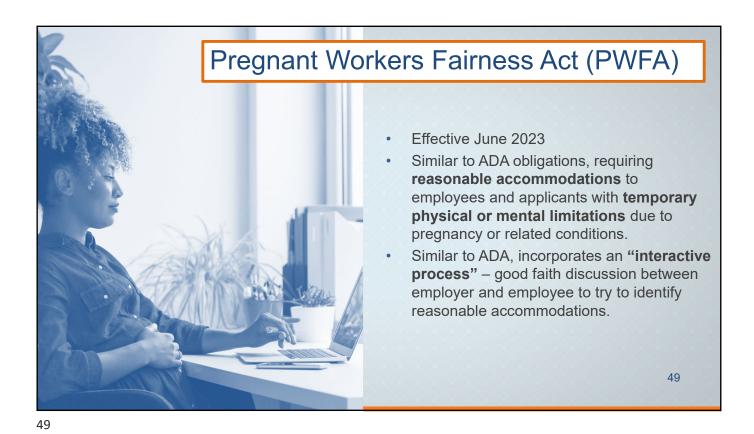
Altering how a job function is performed (e.g. modifying standing, lifting, climbing, or bending requirements).

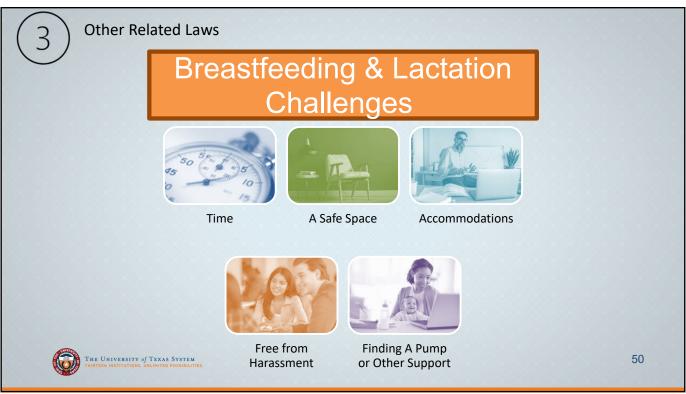
Modifying workplace policies.

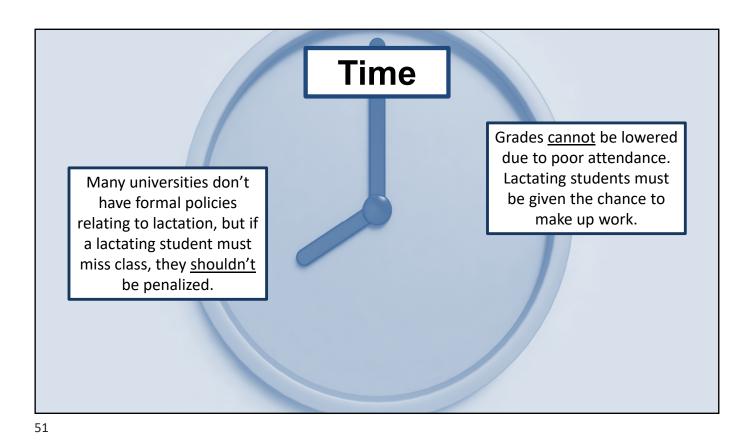
Purchasing or modifying equipment or devices (e.g. foot stool, larger desk).

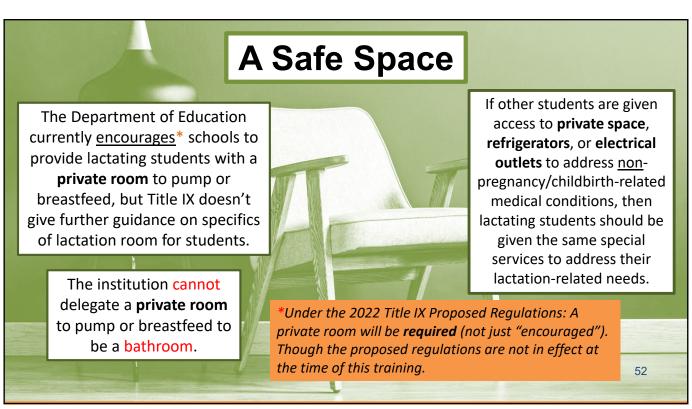
Modifying work schedules.

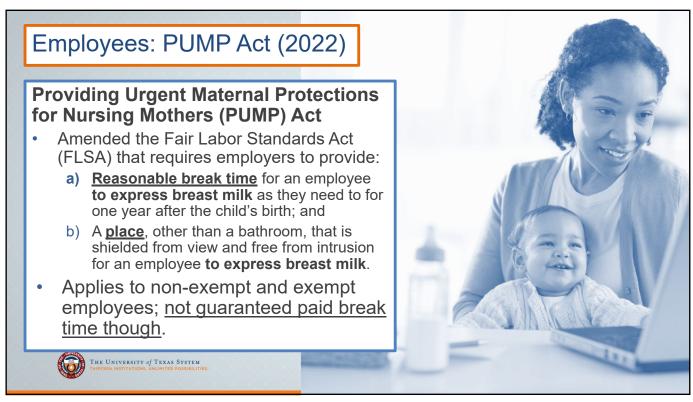
Temporary assignment to a "light duty" position.

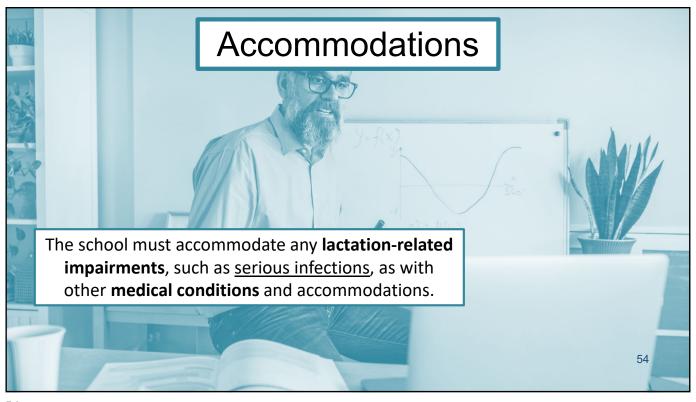




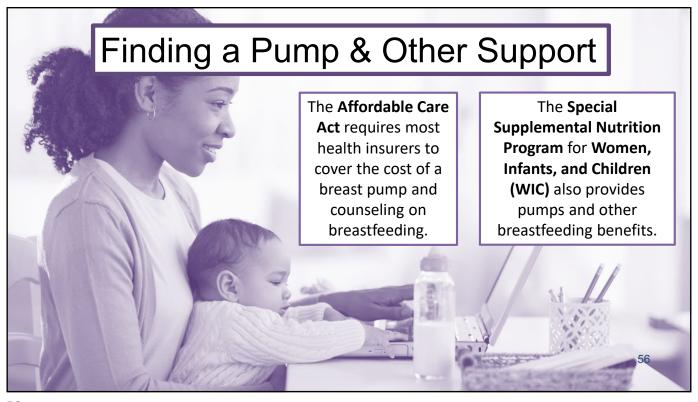
















# Contact Information

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