



## **Protections for Pregnant & Parenting Students**

### **POLICY**

Lamar University is committed to providing a welcoming learning environment for pregnant and parenting students through policies that protect academic rights guaranteed to these students under federal and state law.

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy applies to students who are pregnant and parenting students. Parenting student is defined as a student who is the parent or legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age.

### **PROTECTIONS FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS**

Lamar University and its faculty and staff may not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of the student's status as a pregnant or parenting student or due to issues related to the student's pregnancy or parenting, to:

1. take a leave of absence or withdraw from the student's degree or certificate program;
2. limit the student's studies;
3. participate in an alternative program;
4. change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or
5. refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the institution.

Lamar University shall allow a pregnant or parenting student to:

1. take a leave of absence for a period not less than the minimum period established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule; and
2. if in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, return to the student's degree or certificate program in good academic standing without being required to reapply for admission.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS**

Lamar University shall, for reasons related to a student's pregnancy, childbirth, or any resulting medical status or condition:

1. excuse the student's absence;
2. allow the student to make up missed assignments or assessments;
3. allow the student additional time to complete assignments in the same manner as the institution allows for a student with a temporary medical condition; and
4. provide the student with access to instructional materials and video recordings 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.

Lamar University shall provide reasonable accommodations to a pregnant student, including accommodations that:

1. would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition; or
2. are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child, such as allowing the student to maintain a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant women or unborn children.

Lamar University's Title IX Office provides information and supportive assistance to pregnant students, including assistance obtaining a pregnancy-related accommodation or requesting a leave of absence. The Title IX Office may be contacted via:

Monica Ryan  
Title IX Coordinator  
CICE Building, Ste. 131  
409-880-8163  
[mryan@lamar.edu](mailto:mryan@lamar.edu)

### **PARENTING STUDENT LIAISON**

Lamar University's liaison officer for parenting students provides information regarding support services and other resources available to parenting students. Students seeking such information or requesting a leave of absence related to parenting should contact the parenting student liaison:

Karlee Ogden  
Associate Director, Financial Aid Operations  
409-880-8353  
[kwilkes@lamar.edu](mailto:kwilkes@lamar.edu)

### **PROMULGATION OF THIS POLICY**

Lamar University will communicate this policy annually to faculty, staff, and students through the University's email system. A copy of this policy is posted year-round to the LU website.

### **RESPONSIBILITY AND REVIEW SCHEDULE**

Responsible Party: Vice President for Enrollment Management

Review Schedule: Every two years

### **REFERENCES**

Texas Education Code § 51.982  
Texas Education Code § 51.9357  
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended