

Pregnancy Accommodations Policy for Students

I. Policy Statement

Franciscan University of Steubenville (“University”) is committed to providing all students with the opportunity to pursue and attain their individual goals as it relates to the University’s admissions, employment, and educational programs or activities. This commitment includes the University’s students who are pregnant, parenting, or experiencing pregnancy related conditions. The University prohibits differential treatment or discrimination against students based on the student’s current, potential, or past parental, family, marital status, or pregnancy or related condition.

II. Definitions

“Pregnancy or related conditions” means:

- Pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation;
- Medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation; or
- Recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.

“Parental Status” means a person who is a biological parent; adoptive parent; stepparent; foster parent; legal custodian or guardian; in loco parentis with respect to a person; or a person who is actively seeking custody, guardianship, visitation, or adoption of a person.

III. Student Pregnancy Disclosure

A student who is, or becomes, pregnant or has a related condition is strongly encouraged to notify the Title IX/EEO Coordinator (or designee) as soon as possible. By doing so, the student and the Title IX/EEO Coordinator (or designee) can collaborate and develop an appropriate plan for the continuation of the student’s education considering the unique nature of the University’s programs and requirements, as well as particular challenges the student may face while pregnant or while experiencing a pregnancy related condition.

Contact information for the University’s Title IX/EEO Coordinator is as follows:

Beth Gaughan
Title IX/EEO Coordinator & Youth Protection Officer
Franciscan University of Steubenville
1517 Parkview Circle (Assisi Heights)
Steubenville, Ohio 43952-1792
Tel. (740) 283-4338
Email: Bgaughan@franciscan.edu

The Title IX/EEO Coordinator (or designee) will coordinate specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student’s equal access to the University’s education programs

or activities. However, the choice to declare a student's pregnancy is voluntary, and students are not required to disclose this information to the University.

After being notified by a student or the student's representative of the student's pregnancy or related condition, the Title IX/EEO Coordinator will do the following:

- Inform the student about the University's prohibition on sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.
- Provide the student with the option of reasonable modifications due to the student's pregnancy or related conditions.
- Notify the University's Student Accessibility Coordinator (or designee) to contact the student to discuss any reasonable modifications that may be necessary for the student to continue in their respective education programs or activities.

The University will not require students to submit supporting documentation for the above items, unless the documentation is necessary and reasonable for the University to determine the reasonable modifications to make, or whether to take additional, specific actions. Situations where supporting documentation is not necessary may include, but are not limited to, when the student's need for a specific action is obvious, such as when a student who is pregnant needs a bigger uniform; when the student has previously provided the University with sufficient supporting documentation; when the reasonable modification at issue is allowing a student to carry or keep water nearby and drink, use a bigger desk, sit or stand, or take breaks to eat, drink, or use the restroom; when the student has lactation needs; or when the requested action is available to other students for reasons other than pregnancy or related conditions and such students are not required to submit supporting documentation.

Additionally, the University will not require a student who is pregnant or has a related condition to provide certification from a healthcare provider or any other person that the student is physically able to participate in the University's class, program, or extracurricular activity unless:

- The certified level of physical ability or health is necessary for the student's participation in the class, program, or extracurricular activity;
- The University requires such certification of all students participating in the class, program, or extracurricular activity; and
- The information obtained is not used as a basis for discrimination.

IV. Options After Student Pregnancy Disclosure

Once a student has voluntarily disclosed a pregnancy or related condition to the Title IX/EEO Coordinator (or designee), the student has the following options:

Continue in the Program

- If a student decides to continue in the program and desires to have any modifications to the University's education programs and activities due to the pregnancy or related condition, the student should contact the Title IX/EEO Coordinator. The Title IX/EEO Coordinator will then notify the University's Student Accessibility Coordinator (or designee). Thereafter, the Student Accessibility Coordinator (or designee) will contact the student to discuss any reasonable modifications that may be necessary for the student to continue in the program. Such modifications, if any, are discussed in Section V below, and will be documented in the form in Addendum A which will be signed by both the student and a University representative.
- The University will also allow a student to voluntarily access any separate and comparable portion of the University's education program or activity.

Voluntary Leave of Absence

- Students have the option to take a leave of absence due to pregnancy or related condition. However, such a leave of absence is not required. Should a student choose to take a leave of absence, a student is permitted to do so based on the medical recommendation of the student's licensed healthcare provider.
- A leave of absence due to pregnancy or related condition may be for various amounts of time depending on a student's particular circumstances and the period deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider. Such a leave may be extended if deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider.
- Students are encouraged to communicate with faculty and supervisors regarding plans for leave to ensure a smooth return to campus.
- International students are further encouraged to contact their international advisor immediately, as a leave could require the student to leave the country.
- When a student returns from a leave of absence, the student will be reinstated to the same academic status and, where applicable, extracurricular status, that the student held prior to their leave of absence. This includes the opportunity to make up any work the student missed while on leave.
- If taking a leave of absence due to a pregnancy or related condition, the Education Plan in Addendum B will be discussed and signed by the student and a University representative.

Withdraw from the University

- The student may, in their sole discretion, determine that they must withdraw from the University for an indefinite period or permanently due to their pregnancy or related condition. Existing University withdrawal procedures, and readmission procedures (if applicable) apply.

V. Reasonable Modifications for Students

Reasonable modifications for pregnancy or related conditions will be provided to students based on their individualized needs. Such reasonable modifications will be identified through an interactive process with the student; however, a modification is not reasonable if it fundamentally alters the nature of the University's education program or activity.

Reasonable modifications may include, but are not limited to:

- Breaks during class to attend to any necessary medical or lactation needs
- Access to online education
- Excused absences to attend medical appointments
- Schedule or course changes
- Test rescheduling
- Time extensions for coursework
- Counseling
- Physical space or supply changes
- Elevator access
- Other appropriate policy, practice, or procedure modifications

Students may accept or decline each reasonable modification offered by the University.

VI. Lactation Station & Information

The University will provide a lactation station for breastfeeding students. These spaces provide a private, clean area where students are shielded from view and free from intrusion.

VII. Questions or Concerns

A student who has questions about this policy or who is concerned about its implementation should contact the Title IX/EEO Coordinator using the contact information listed in Section III of this policy.

Addendum A
Continuation in Program after Disclosing Pregnancy

I. Acknowledgements

By signing this form, [INSERT STUDENT NAME] (“Student”) acknowledges the following:

- Student has voluntarily disclosed their pregnancy to Franciscan University of Steubenville (the “University”) and intends to continue pursuing their degree in the University’s [INSERT PROGRAM].
- Student understands there are other options available, including taking a leave of absence.
- Student understands there are potential risks to them and/or their fetus by continuing in the [INSERT PROGRAM]. The University has advised Student to consult with their doctor to discuss these potential risks.
- Student assumes all responsibility related to these risks and any resulting losses or costs, including medical treatment and costs thereof.

II. Adjustments to Program

[In this section, describe any modifications that have been discussed and will be implemented based on the student’s pregnancy or related condition. Note if there have been no modifications implemented at the time of signature.]

- A. [insert modification]
- B. [insert modification]
- C. Student may request additional modifications at any time by contacting [insert University personnel contact]

The University and Student do hereby agree to the above.

[INSERT NAME], Student

Date

[INSERT NAME], [INSERT POSITION TITLE]
[name] University

Date

**Addendum B
Education Plan for Pregnancy Leave**

Franciscan University of Steubenville (the “University”) and [INSERT NAME OF STUDENT] (“Student”) have agreed to the following conditions related to Student’s leave of absence related to their pregnancy or related condition. Student’s leave of absence is scheduled to begin on [INSERT DATE] and Student is anticipating a return to school [INSERT DATE OR TERM]. Student and the University acknowledge that Student may take a longer leave if it is deemed medically necessary by Student’s doctor, and the parties agree to meet and discuss this Education Plan if that occurs.

I. Academics

[In this section, discuss where Student currently stands academically, what modifications to the Student’s courses/degree track will be necessary because of the leave of absence, what classes the Student will be enrolled in upon return, etc.]

II. Financial Aid/Scholarships

[In this section, discuss current financial aid/scholarship/funding situation and any implications from taking leave.]

III. Additional Matters

[In this section, discuss any additional matters that are relevant to a particular situation, including any logistical considerations for a student’s readmission following a leave.]

- A. Student agrees to contact the University’s Student Accessibility Coordinator (or designee) ____ [days/weeks/months] in advance of Student’s return to the University in order to ensure a smooth transition back to school.
- B. Student will not be required to pay any application or readmission fees related to Student’s readmission to the institution.

The University and Student do hereby agree to the above.

[INSERT NAME], Student

Date

[INSERT NAME], [INSERT POSITION TITLE]
[Name] University

Date