

FAQS

Pregnancy & Parenting

Parenting Student Liaison: Kayla Devora-Jones, Ed.D.

kdjones@coastalbend.edu

WHERE CAN A STUDENT SEEK ASSISTANCE FOR PREGNANCY-RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS?

Students who are pregnant can reach out to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) at oas@coastalbend.edu for support with accommodations. Possible accommodations include rescheduling tests or exams, excusing absences, extending deadlines for assignments, providing alternatives for missed work, or retaking a semester. The OAS can help communicate with professors on behalf of the student and connect them with other college resources if needed.

PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, AND RELATED CONDITIONS MAY NECESSITATE ABSENCE. WILL THOSE ABSENCES BE EXCUSED?

Yes. Absences due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions must be excused and cannot be treated or penalized like unexcused absences. Depending on the length of the absence and area of instruction, it may be academically necessary for the student to take a leave of absence. The instructor/professor must provide a leave of absence for pregnant students for as long as it is deemed necessary by their medical doctor.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PREGNANT STUDENT MISSES AN ASSIGNMENT(S), TEST(S), EXAM(S) ETC. DUE TO AN EXCUSED ABSENCE?

After an excused absence due to pregnancy, childbirth, or any related medical conditions. The instructor/professor must allow a reasonable time for the student to make up missed assignments and tests. This is true regardless of the course's typical makeup assignment policy. Depending on the nature of the course, making up the exact missed assignment might not be feasible. The makeup work does not have to be exactly the same as the missed work, but needs to be reasonably equivalent.

CAN PREGNANT STUDENTS BE PENALIZED FOR THEIR ABSENCE IF GRADES IN CLASS ARE BASED ON ATTENDANCE OR PARTICIPATION?

A student may not be penalized for absences known to be due to pregnancy, childbirth, or other related medical conditions. An instructor/professor cannot reduce a pregnant student's grade because of attendance or participation points that the student missed during excused absences due to her pregnancy-related conditions. The faculty member must give the student a reasonable opportunity to earn back the credit missed due to pregnancy.

CAN A INSTRUCTOR/PROFESSOR PREVENT A PREGNANT STUDENT FROM ATTENDING CLASS?

No. Under Title IX, the College cannot exclude someone from class based on their pregnancy. The College can only require a pregnant student to provide a doctor's certification of fitness to continue in an education program or activity if the same requirement is imposed on all other students with medical conditions requiring a doctor's care.

CAN A PREGNANT STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN INTERNSHIPS AND OTHER OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS?

Yes. Pregnant students cannot be excluded from College-related off-campus programs, such as internships, off-campus activities, College-sponsored activities, and other extracurricular activities. An instructor/professor cannot require a doctor's note to show fitness to participate unless it is required for all students in the program.

DOES THE COLLEGE HAVE TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SERVICES TO PREGNANT STUDENTS?

Yes, Coastal Bend College must provide the same services to pregnant students that it provides for other students with temporary disabilities.

WHAT IF A STUDENT OR INSTRUCTOR/PROFESSOR MAKES AN OFFENSIVE OR INAPPROPRIATE REMARK ABOUT A STUDENT'S PREGNANCY?

Coastal Bend College does not tolerate gender-based harassment, including harassment based on pregnancy, the student should notify the Student Parent Liaison immediately. If a faculty or staff member witnesses or learns about harassment of a pregnant student, the should also immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator so that prompt and effective steps end the pregnancy-related harassment, prevent its recurrence, and eliminate any hostile environment created by the harassment.

The same grievance procedures are applicable to complaints of sexual misconduct also apply to discrimination based on pregnancy or parental status.

Title IX prohibits a school's retaliation against an individual for filing a complaint or raising concerns about the rights of a pregnant and parenting student.

CAN A PREGNANT STUDENT LOSE THEIR SCHOLARSHIP DUE TO PREGNANCY?

As long as the student remains enrolled at CBC and in good standing when the student is not medically required to be absent, the student will not lose the scholarship