



## Guide for Pregnant and Parenting Students

*(Last revised: Summer 2024)*

The University of Miami (University) is committed to creating a culture of belonging for all students, including pregnant and parenting students, and does not discriminate based on pregnancy or related conditions or familial status, including in the admissions processes.

If you are a student experiencing pregnancy or related conditions, know that the University's Title IX Coordinator can coordinate specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure you equal access to programs and activities. This document includes information about your legal rights as well as other matters you may want to consider in relation to your condition.

*If you are a staff member or faculty member and need assistance relating to pregnancy, please review the University's Reasonable Workplace Accommodations policy and/ or contact [wei@miami.edu](mailto:wei@miami.edu) or [facultyaffairs@miami.edu](mailto:facultyaffairs@miami.edu) respectively.*

### 1. Contacting the Title IX Coordinator

We understand that whether and/or when to disclose that you are expecting a child is a very personal decision. There is no obligation for you to notify your school or any other school officials of your pregnancy. Furthermore, should you decide to notify them, there is no mandated timeframe for the disclosure. That said, notifying someone allows the University to assist you in planning ahead to best balance pregnancy and school obligations. Early disclosure can be particularly helpful in informing academic planning that ensures you continue to make progress towards graduation through your pregnancy, delivery, and beyond.

The University's Title IX Coordinator is the best person to assist you with pregnancy related concerns regarding your participation in University programs or activities. The contact information for the Title IX Coordinator is:

University's Title IX Office  
Maria Sevilla, JD, Title IX Coordinator  
6200 San Amaro Drive, Ste. 230 Coral Gables, FL 33146 Telephone: 305-284-8624  
Email: [titleixcoordinator@miami.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@miami.edu) Website: [www.miami.edu/titleix](http://www.miami.edu/titleix)



## 2. Reasonable Modifications to Policies, Practices, and Procedures

Upon review of the individual needs of a student experiencing pregnancy or related conditions, the University will make reasonable accommodations to prevent discrimination and ensure equal access to programs and activities, including making reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures if needed. Modifications that would fundamentally alter the nature of an academic program or activity are not reasonable and will not be granted. The University will engage with students and programs to ensure **reasonable requests are properly considered and granted when feasible based on the specific applicable class and/or program/activity requirements.**

Requests may include requests to reschedule exams based on medical need. If you need to reschedule a final exam, **do not** contact your faculty member directly, as this could compromise anonymous grading mechanisms. Instead, please seek assistance from the Title IX Coordinator..

Note that except in case of emergency, in most cases, students will not be able to make up work unless specific arrangements were made prior to an absence.

## 3. Leave of Absence

You are not required to take time off for your pregnancy or once your child is born. However, all students are permitted to take a leave of absence from their program should they choose to do so.

The Title IX Coordinator can assist you in evaluating leave options. In addition, you can find specific information about applicable Leave of Absence policies here:

Undergraduate Students	Canes Success Center (305) 284-4500/ <a href="mailto:success@miami.edu">success@miami.edu</a> / <a href="mailto:success@miami.edu">success@miami.edu</a>
Graduate Students	UM Graduate School (305) 284-4154 <a href="https://www.grad.miami.edu/policies-and-forms/forms/index.html">https://www.grad.miami.edu/policies-and-forms/forms/index.html</a> (Petition for Leave of Absence)



Law Students	Janet Stearns, Dean of Students (305) 284-4551 <a href="https://www.law.miami.edu/student-handbook">https://www.law.miami.edu/student-handbook</a>
Medical Students	Deans for Student Affairs MSOM Dr. Hilit Mechaber: (305) 243-7978 Dr. Chris Alabiad (305) 243-2003 Dr. Julie Belkowitz: (561)886-1202 <a href="#">Medical Student Handbook</a>

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** *If you are considering requesting a leave of absence, we urge you to contact your ISSS advisor immediately as a leave of absence may have visa implications beyond the University's control.*

**4. Lactation Rooms**

The University of Miami provides Lactation Rooms on campus for individuals to express milk. This program is centrally operated for all individuals in need of the space, including students, staff, faculty, and affiliates. You may request use of on-campus lactation rooms through coordination with the Title IX Coordinator or directly through the [Lactation Rooms Request Form](#).

As needed, the Title IX Coordinator can work with individual students to arrange for alternate spaces to be made available in your area, based on availability. Regional Campus students in need of lactation room access should contact the Title IX Coordinator.

**5. Parking**

To the extent possible, Parking and Transportation Services will work to accommodate special parking needs for pregnant individuals. Should medical circumstances warrant it, extended arrangements may be granted. Please note that requests are not guaranteed to be met, as parking is always subject to availability. You may request a parking accommodation through the Title IX Coordinator or directly from the University parking authorities as follows:

Coral Gables	Office of Parking & Transportation (305)284-3096 / <a href="mailto:parking.gables@miami.edu">parking.gables@miami.edu</a>
RSMAS Campus	Office of Parking & Transportation (305)710-7991 / <a href="mailto:parking@rsmas.miami.edu">parking@rsmas.miami.edu</a>
Miller School of Medicine	Department of Public Safety- Parking & Transportation (305)243-6280 / <a href="mailto:ppasses@med.miami.edu">ppasses@med.miami.edu</a>



Coordinator (see #1 above).

**6. Financial Aid**

Having a child could impact your financial assistance award, particularly if that child is going to be your financial dependent or if you will be responsible for the cost of childcare. Please contact the specific office below to fully understand how your aid might be impacted by additional expenses related to being a parent:

Undergraduate Students	'Canes Central <a href="http://www.canescentral.miami.edu">www.canescentral.miami.edu</a>
Graduate Students	
Law Students	
Medical Students	Office of Student Financial Assistance Phone: (305) 243-6211 or Email: medfinaid@med.miami.edu

**7. Medical Insurance Coverage**

The University makes medical insurance available to all students for a fee. In addition, students have the option of including dependent children on their insurance plan for an additional fee. To obtain information about specific coverage options available through the University, please contact:

All Students	Student Health Service <a href="https://studenthealth.studentaffairs.miami.edu/">https://studenthealth.studentaffairs.miami.edu/</a> (305)284-5921 / <a href="mailto:studenthealth@miami.edu">studenthealth@miami.edu</a>
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If you have insurance coverage through a non-UM provider, we encourage you to contact your provider in a timely manner to review the details of your plan and coverage options for your family after birth.

**8. Childcare**

To protect everyone's safety and access to education, minors are not allowed to accompany their parents to class. Students **should not** contact faculty to seek exceptions to this directive.

Childcare facilities are available at the Coral Gables Campus and Miller Campus for a fee. Please note that these facilities are not operated by the University and availability is not guaranteed. To obtain more information:

Coral Gables Campus	Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury Preschool (305) 284-5437 / <a href="https://child-care-preschool.brighthorizons.com/fl/coralgables/umcanterburygables">https://child-care-preschool.brighthorizons.com/fl/coralgables/umcanterburygables</a>
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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
TITLE IX OFFICE



titleixcoordinator@miami.edu

Ph: 305-284-8624

Miller Campus	The Debbie School (305) 243-6547 / <a href="http://pediatrics.med.miami.edu/debbie-school/">http://pediatrics.med.miami.edu/debbie-school/</a>  Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury Preschool Miller Campus (305) 243-3777 / <a href="https://child-care-preschool.brighthorizons.com/fl/miami/umcanterburymedical">https://child-care-preschool.brighthorizons.com/fl/miami/umcanterburymedical</a>
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Please refer to item #5 above to obtain additional information on how childcare costs might impact your financial aid eligibility.

If your childcare responsibilities conflict with your ability to attend class, please consider contacting the Title IX Coordinator (see #1 above) or reviewing the attendance and leave of absence sections (#2 and #3 above).

**9. Non-birthing Parents**

The University will attempt to accommodate reasonable requests by non-birthing parents. This includes adopting parents and non-birthing partners. For additional information, please contact the Title IX Coordinator (see #1 above).