

PREGNANT STUDENTS | TITLE IX

Student Guidance Document

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), 20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*, is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex—including pregnancy and parental status—in educational programs and activities. Georgia State University must comply with Title IX.

Process for Seeking Adjustments Due to Pregnancy and Childbirth:

A student seeking an adjustment due to pregnancy or childbirth must [register with the Access and Accommodations Center \(AACE\)](#), which will issue a letter outlining the specific adjustments they are entitled to pursuant to Title IX. **Students should register with AACE for pregnancy and childbirth adjustments as soon as they become aware that they are or will be necessary. Adjustments are not retroactive.** The instructors must grant the adjustments required by Title IX as described in this document and your letter.

Pregnant Student Rights:

- You must be allowed to continue participating in class or extracurricular activities without requiring a doctor’s note.
- You must be provided with excused absences due to pregnancy or childbirth for as long as the absences are medically necessary. The instructor may not ask you for a health care provider’s note for such absences, but you are responsible for making instructors aware of such absences as soon as you are able to do so.
- If an instructor’s grading is based in part on class participation or attendance, you must be provided with the opportunity to make up participation or attendance credits you did not have the opportunity to earn due to absences related to pregnancy or childbirth.
- You must be provided with the opportunity to make up work missed due to pregnancy or childbirth and may choose to do so by the end of the semester or by taking an “incomplete” [per the University’s policy on incompletes](#). Instructors may not refuse to allow you to submit work after a deadline you missed because of pregnancy or childbirth.
- You must be provided with reasonable adjustments such as frequent bathroom breaks, a larger desk, or temporary elevator access.
- You must be provided with the same services the instructor makes available to students with other temporary medical conditions, **if any** (*e.g.*, if the instructor provides services such as homebound instruction, at-home tutoring or independent study options to students with temporary medical conditions such as mononucleosis or recovery from surgery, pregnant students and students who have given birth must be provided with those same services).
- You must be allowed to return to the same academic and extracurricular status you were in before an absence due to pregnancy or childbirth.
- Instructors may not pressure you to withdraw from a course or program, or to change educational plans due to pregnancy or childbirth.
- Instructors should not permit harassment based on pregnancy or parental status (*i.e.* sexual comments, name-calling, jokes, etc., about the student’s pregnancy).
- Please note that **you are still responsible for the completion of all required coursework**, and the excused absence adjustment is meant to be used **only when your health care provider says that absence is medically necessary**.

Where should I go if I have questions?

Instructors and students should address regarding pregnancy and childbirth adjustments to Georgia State University's Title IX Coordinator at TitleIX@gsu.edu or 404-413-2561. Questions about registration with AACE or the adjustment letter should be directed to the Director of the Access and Accommodations Center at (404) 413-1560.

Where can I file a complaint of sex discrimination at Georgia State University, including discrimination related to pregnancy or childbirth?

Please contact Equity & Civil Rights Compliance at equalopportunity@gsu.edu or 404-413-2561.