



## Guidance for Pregnant and Parenting Students

*(Last revised: Summer 2023)*

The University of Miami is committed to creating a culture of belonging for all students, including pregnant and parenting students. If you are planning to become pregnant or learn that you are pregnant during your studies, we recommend that you consider some of issues below.

(If you are a staff member or faculty member and need assistance relating to pregnancy, please contact [wei@miami.edu](mailto:wei@miami.edu) or [facultyaffairs@miami.edu](mailto:facultyaffairs@miami.edu) respectively.)

### 1. Notifying your School

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 following individuals have been identified to serve as a resource for pregnant/parenting students in your specific area:

<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	Steven Pripke, Senior Associate Dean of Students (305) 284-5353 / <a href="mailto:spripke@miami.edu">spripke@miami.edu</a> OR Raquel McDowell, Assistant Dean & Title IX Investigator (305) 284-5353 / <a href="mailto:rxm1408@miami.edu">rxm1408@miami.edu</a>
<b>Graduate Students</b>	Hudson Santos, Associate Dean (305) 284-4154 / <a href="mailto:hsantos@miami.edu">hsantos@miami.edu</a>
<b>Law Students</b>	Janet Stearns, Dean of Students (305) 284-4551 / <a href="mailto:jstearns@law.miami.edu">jstearns@law.miami.edu</a>
<b>Medical Students</b>	Dr. Marisa Echenique, Director of Student Services Services (305)-355-8255/ <a href="mailto:mechenique@med.miami.edu">mechenique@med.miami.edu</a>



## 2. Attendance/ Class & Exam Schedules

Upon learning of your pregnancy, you should review your school/program's attendance policy.

<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	See Class Attendance and Absences Section at <a href="http://bulletin.miami.edu/general-university-information/university-policies/course-information/#text">http://bulletin.miami.edu/general-university-information/university-policies/course-information/#text</a>
<b>Graduate Students</b>	See Class Attendance and Absences Section at <a href="http://bulletin.miami.edu/general-university-information/university-policies/course-information/#text">http://bulletin.miami.edu/general-university-information/university-policies/course-information/#text</a>
<b>Law Students</b>	See Classroom Responsibilities Section at <a href="https://www.law.miami.edu/student-handbook">https://www.law.miami.edu/student-handbook</a>
<b>Medical Students</b>	See Attendance Section at <a href="#">Medical Student Handbook</a>

On a case-by-case basis, the individuals listed above (see #1) may facilitate communication with faculty and program leadership in an attempt to respond to reasonable requests, based on your specific circumstances. The University will engage with students and programs to ensure **reasonable requests are properly considered and granted when feasible based on applicable class and/or program 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 applicable resource listed in #1.

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 chose to do so.

It is important that you carefully review the ramifications of taking a leave to ensure a smooth return once you are ready to return. You can find specific information about the applicable Leave of Absence policy here:



Undergraduate Students	Canes Success Center (305) 284-4500/ <a href="mailto:success@miami.edu">success@miami.edu</a> / <a href="http://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.*

**4. 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. To request a parking accommodation please contact:

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>

Regional Campus students in need of parking assistance should contact the resource person listed in #1.



**5. 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: <a href="mailto:medfinaid@med.miami.edu">medfinaid@med.miami.edu</a>

**6. 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>
--------------	---

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.

**7. 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 the [Lactation Rooms Request Form](#).

As needed, the designated resource person for your area (see #1 above) can work with individual students to arrange for alternate rooms in your area, based on availability. Regional Campus students in need of lactation room access should contact the resource person listed in #1.

**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>
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>

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 designated resource for your area (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 designated resource for your area (see #1 above).

### 10. Additional Help/ Support

For additional help or information, or if you have any concerns relating to your pregnancy/parenting experience at UM, you can contact the Title IX Office directly:

**Beverly Pruitt, Title IX Coordinator**  
**Maria Sevilla, Deputy Title IX Coordinator**  
Gables One Tower, Suite 100  
(305) 284-8624  
[titleixcoordinator@miami.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@miami.edu)