



Guidance for Pregnant and Parenting Students

(Last revised: Spring 2021)

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 these issues:

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:

Undergraduate Students	Steven Pripke, Senior Associate Dean of Students (305)284-5353 / spripke@miami.edu OR Raquel McDowell, Assistant Dean & Title IX Investigator (305)284-5353 / rxm1408@miami.edu
Graduate Students	Tatiana Perrino, Associate Dean (305)284-4154 / t.perrino@miami.edu
Law Students	Janet Stearns, Dean of Students (305)284-4551 / jstearns@law.miami.edu
Medical Students	Laura Chamorro Dauer, MD, Director of Student Services (305)-243-7978/ lchamorro@med.miami.edu .

2. Attendance/ Class & Exam Schedules

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



Undergraduate Students	See Class Attendance and Absences Section at http://bulletin.miami.edu/general-university-information/university-policies/course-information/#text
Graduate Students	See Class Attendance and Absences Section at http://bulletin.miami.edu/general-university-information/university-policies/course-information/#text
Law Students	See Classroom Responsibilities Section at https://www.law.miami.edu/student-handbook
Medical Students	See Attendance Section at http://ren.mededu.miami.edu/MD_Curriculum/Misc/Important%20Administrative%20Documents%20For%20Students/Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook 2019 20.pdf

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. **Reasonable requests will be considered on a case by case basis as balanced with the applicable class and/or program requirements. Requests are not guaranteed to be granted.**

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 person 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	Cane Success Center
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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
TITLE IX OFFICE



1320 South Dixie Highway, Suite 100 Ph: 305-284-8624
 Coral Gables, Florida 33146

	(305)284-4500/ success@miami.edu / success@miami.edu
Graduate Students	UM Graduate School (305) 284-4154 / https://www.grad.miami.edu/policies-and-forms/forms/index.html (Petition for Leave of Absence)
Law Students	Dean of Students Janet Stearns 305-284-4551 https://www.law.miami.edu/student-handbook
Medical Students	Deans for Student Affairs: Dr. Hilitt Mechaber, 305.243.7978 Dr. Chris Alabiad 305-243-2003 Dr. Julie Belkowitz, (561)886-1202 Medical Student Handbook

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: *If you are considering requesting a leave of absence, we urge you to contact your ISSS advisor immediately as this would likely require you to leave the country.*

4. Parking

To the extent possible, Parking and Transportation Services will work to accommodate special parking needs for pregnant mothers in the last three months of the pregnancy. Should medical circumstances warrant it, extended arrangements may be granted. Please note that requests are not guaranteed to be met; fulfillment is always subject to availability. To request a parking accommodation please contact:

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

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 in order to fully understand how your aid might be impacted by additional expenses related to being a parent:



Undergraduate Students	'Canes Central Submit a case on their website: www.canescentral.miami.edu
Graduate Students	
Law Students	
Medical Students	Office of Student Financial Assistance Phone: (305)243-6211

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 in 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 https://studenthealth.studentaffairs.miami.edu/ (305)284-5921 / studenthealth@miami.edu
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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 learn details about your plan, and review coverage options for your family after birth.

7. Nursing Rooms

The University of Miami provides Nursing Rooms on campus. This program is operated for all nursing mothers, including University employees. You may request use of on-campus nursing rooms through the [Nursing Mothers Room 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 parking assistance should contact the resource person listed in #1.

8. Childcare

In order 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 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:

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Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Coral Gables Campus	Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury Preschool (305)284-5437 / https://child-care-preschool.brighthorizons.com/fl/coralgables/umcanterburygables
Miller Campus	The Debbie School (305)243-6547 / http://pediatrics.med.miami.edu/debbie-school/ Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury Preschool Miller Campus (305)243-3777 / https://child-care-preschool.brighthorizons.com/fl/miami/umcanterburymedical

Please refer to item #5 above to obtain additional information how added 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