



## **Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Students**

Title IX provides that “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” The Education Department’s regulations implementing Title IX specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions. These Title IX regulations also prohibit colleges from applying any rule related to a student’s parental, family, or marital status that treats students differently based on their sex.

The Department of Education outlines Title IX requirements with respect to pregnancy and parenting students in its pamphlet *Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972*. Requirements are summarized below.

### **Requirements**

Colleges are required to:

- Excuse absences because of pregnancy or childbirth as long as the student’s doctor deems the absences medically necessary; upon the student’s return, she must be allowed to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before medical leave began, and she must be permitted to earn any credits missed during the absence.
- Any special instructional programs or classes must be voluntary and comparable to what is offered to other students; a pregnant student must be permitted to participate in regular programs and classes if she wishes. Likewise, any special services provided to students who have temporary medical conditions must also be provided to a pregnant student.
- Make adjustments to a regular program or class that are reasonable and responsive to the student’s temporary pregnancy status (eg., larger desk, frequent trips to bathroom)

### **Prohibitions**

Colleges are prohibited from:

- Excluding a pregnant student from participating in any part of an educational program – including, but not limited to specific classes, extracurricular programs, interscholastic sports, honor societies, and opportunities for student leadership.
- Requiring pregnant students or students who have given birth to submit medical certification for participation in educational program/activities unless such certification is required for all students with physical or emotional conditions requiring the attention of a physician.
- Harassing pregnant or parenting students.

**Procedures**

Pregnant and parenting students who wish to access their rights under Title IX should attempt to work out appropriate accommodations with their instructors. They may also contact ADA Coordinator Judy Gordon ([jgordon@chesapeake.edu](mailto:jgordon@chesapeake.edu) or 410.827.5805) if they have questions regarding appropriate accommodations.

Faculty members with questions regarding appropriate accommodations in a particular situation should contact Coordinator Gordon or Dean Eleanor Welsh ([ewelsh@chesapeake.edu](mailto:ewelsh@chesapeake.edu) or 410.827.5847).