

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Pregnant and Parenting Student Rights: FAQs for California State University, Long Beach Students

Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex—including pregnancy, parenting, and related medical conditions—in education and in programs and activities that receive federal funding. If you are a pregnant or parenting student, you have the right to stay in school so you can meet your educational and career goals. Below are some frequently asked questions from students in postsecondary schools regarding their Title IX rights:

How Does Title IX Apply to Pregnant or Parenting Students?

Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex—including pregnancy, parenting, and related pregnancy-related

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After returning from an excused absence, your professor must provide a reasonable amount of time to make up for missed assignments and tests. The makeup assignments and tests must be reasonably equivalent to those missed, but do not need to be identical. If professor provides specific points or other advantages to students based on class attendance, you must be given the opportunity to earn back the credit from classes missed due to pregnancy.

For example, if you have a doctor's note that excuses you from class for several weeks because you were on bed rest before giving birth, the university must provide you with the appropriate assignments and information to make up all of the work you would have been required to complete while you were out. For an extended absence, best practice suggests that the school provide you with the work you miss regularly, so you do not fall behind.

Does California State University, Long Beach need to provide me with special academic services like assistive equipment or furniture?

Title IX requires that California State University, Long Beach provide pregnant students with any special services we provide to students with any other type of temporary disabilities. Please contact the Bob Murphy Access Center at (562) 985-5401 or [bmac@csulb.edu](mailto:bmac@csulb.edu) for more information.

What about internships, career rotations, and other off-campus elements of my program do I have a right to participate in those opportunities?

Yes. California State University, Long Beach must allow you to continue participating in off-campus programs. For example, if your program provides opportunities to "work in the field," you cannot be excluded based on your pregnancy. Your professor cannot require a doctor's note for continued participation unless your professor requires one for all students who have a medical condition that requires treatment by a doctor. If they do ask for a note, they cannot second-guess your doctor's decision.

**[PLEASE SUBMIT MEDICAL NOTES DIRECTLY TO THE BOB MURPHY ACCESS CENTER (BMAC) TO YOUR PROFESSOR]**

Classmates and/or professors have made offensive comments to me about my pregnancy. Should I complain to California State University, Long Beach about the offensive comments?

Title IX requires the university to prevent and address sex-based harassment, including harassment based on pregnancy. If you experience harassment based on pregnancy, you should report it to the Title IX office. For more information, contact the Title IX office at (562) 985-5401 or [titelx@csulb.edu](mailto:titelx@csulb.edu).

I have a scholarship from California State University, Long Beach. Can I take it back when they find out I am pregnant?

No, California State University, Long Beach cannot terminate or reduce athletic, merit, or need-based scholarships because of pregnancy. If you stay in school, you can keep your scholarship.

I want to take a semester off. Can I keep my student status, scholarship etc.?

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