
What to Expect When You're Expecting at Mount Mary University

General Overview

Pregnant and parenting students are protected from discrimination and harassment under Title IX, a law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded educational program.

Students are entitled to academic modifications for their pregnancy-related absences and needs. These may include excused absences, assignment extensions, a different desk/chair arrangement, or excused breaks, among others.

In return, students must fulfill their obligations under campus policy and federal law by providing all needed documentation, communicating appropriately with the University, and completing all academic coursework as required.

Campus Resources

Mother's Room

Mount Mary has two designated private rooms for use by nursing mothers. The rooms (GC 101 and 103) are located in the Gerhardinger Center (behind the information desk) and are available to students and campus employees for breastfeeding or pumping. The door codes can be obtained from Human Resources (NDH 252).

Student Health Insurance

Mount Mary offers a health insurance plan to all students. More information about this plan can be found on My Mount Mary or by contacting the Director of Accessibility Services.

Student Success Center

The Mount Mary Student Success Center, located on the 1st floor of the Haggerty Library, can provide a wide variety of services for students. Meet with a Student Support Consultant for general help in navigating campus resources, meet with a tutor to get caught up in class or develop new strategies for classroom success, or meet with someone from our counseling staff to feel supported in all areas of your life.

Career Development

Not only can the Career Counselors in our Advising and Career Development center help you prepare for your own career search, but they can also help you place job postings for caregivers.

Contact Information

Sara Sharpe Krenke
Director of Accessibility Services
414-930-3173
Student Success Center
sharpes@mtmary.edu

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Frequently Asked Questions

I am a Mount Mary student and pregnant, who should I contact and what do I need to do?

There are a number of resources available to help pregnant students to be successful. Pregnant students are encouraged to contact the Director of Accessibility Services to officially notify the University of their pregnancy. The Director will work with each student to gather the appropriate paperwork and documentation so that student will be eligible for modifications as required by their pregnancy. By reaching out to the Director, students also protect themselves from possible discrimination or unfair treatment as federal law protects their right to an education. Students should keep in contact with the Director for the duration of the pregnancy, so that the University can continue to support the student.

What kind of documentation do I need to get from my doctor?

The type of documentation required will depend on the modifications being request. As the student, you bear the responsibility of requesting the appropriate documentation from your physician. It is important that documentation be provided in a timely fashion and that you communicate any concerns or challenges in obtaining documentation to the University.

Can I be excused from class due to pregnancy or childbirth?

Yes. Students may be excused from class due to pregnancy or childbirth, so long as their doctor deems the absence medically necessary. Such absences require documentation to be considered excused and all missed work must be made up. Students should make every effort to avoid additional absences that are not medically necessary (ex. regularly scheduled appointments.)

Do I have to tell my instructors I am pregnant?

Generally, no. The choice to disclose your pregnancy is yours alone. However, no modifications can be made without knowledge of your pregnancy and required documentation from your doctor. In some cases, a specific class may require the disclosure of pregnancy as the conditions of the class pose a risk to the developing fetus (ex. certain labs or clinical settings.)

Can I be removed from my program, lose a scholarship, or fail a class because I am pregnant?

No. You cannot be automatically dismissed from a program or fail a class simply because you are pregnant. Provided you follow through on providing the appropriate documentation, communicate with your faculty to develop a reasonable plan for making up missing work, and then follow through on completing that work, you will retain the same academic standing as prior to your pregnancy. It is important to remember that while your pregnancy will allow you modifications so that you can be successful in the class – the academic integrity of the course will remain the same. You must still meet the expectations of the course to successfully complete it.

What if I am having a hard time keeping up with my classes during my pregnancy, or after childbirth?

Pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting all present a number of new and continuing challenges for individuals. Mount Mary recognizes that pregnant and parenting students may require additional support and are proud to offer a variety of resources to help our students be successful. Students are encouraged to communicate any challenges they are facing to faculty or administrators, who can then help them connect with the right resources on campus.
