

## **Saint Mary's College Policy Regarding Pregnant and Parenting Students**

In keeping with our mission and values, Saint Mary's College treats all students equitably regardless of their actual or potential parental or familial status. Students who become pregnant may remain enrolled and will receive the full support of the College. It is our policy to provide appropriate, reasonable adjustments to educational programs and activities to support pregnant or parenting students.

This policy establishes a process for pregnant and parenting students to request and obtain adjustments to educational programs and activities, allowing them to continue their education at Saint Mary's College.

This policy is in compliance with Title IX.

### **REQUESTS FOR ADJUSTMENTS FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS**

A student in need of an educational adjustment should submit a written request with supporting documentation to the Dean of Student Academic Services. If a student is unable to submit a request because of their condition, an appropriate representative may contact the Dean of Student Academic Services on the student's behalf, and the student may confirm the request when able to do so.

The Dean of Student Academic Services will consult with the student (or appropriate representative) and necessary College officials, including faculty and department chairs, to develop an educational adjustment for the student. In a case where consensus cannot be reached between the Dean of Student Academic Services or department, the Associate Provost will make the final decision in consultation with the Provost. In the event the Dean of Student Academic Services receives a request for an adjustment that may be covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act, the request will be forwarded to the director of the Accessibility Resource Office.

### **MEDICALLY NECESSARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

An educational adjustment under this policy may include an excused leave of absence for as long as medically necessary. To request a leave of absence and accompanying academic adjustments under this policy, a student should follow the request procedure outlined above.

- If reasonable, a student will be given extra time to make up coursework and tests missed during the leave of absence. The Dean of Student Academic Services will determine whether or not it is reasonable to grant a student extra time in partnership with the faculty and department chairs. This determination will be based on a variety of factors, including: the amount of completed coursework, the length of the requested absence, and the student's demonstrated ability to complete coursework outside the classroom.

- If it is unreasonable for a student to receive additional time, the student will be given the option to withdraw from the class without penalty.
- Pregnant or parenting students who must take a medically necessary extended leave of absence (generally no longer than 180 days) will be allowed to return at the same academic and extracurricular status as before the leave began.

## **ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES**

### **Center for Faith, Action, and Ministry - Confidential**

The Center for Faith, Action, and Ministry offers pastoral care and spiritual support for students who are, or think they might be, pregnant. Staff can also provide nonjudgmental support for students who have experienced abortions and provide a list of resources to students for post-abortion healing if needed. To make an appointment or for more information, call (574) 284-5391.

### **Health and Counseling Center - Confidential**

HCC provides pregnancy testing and counseling services to support students who are, or think they might be, pregnant. A variety of off-campus resources can also be provided to students for continued support. To make an appointment or for more information, call the center at (574) 284-4805.

### **Belles Against Violence Office - Confidential**

BAVO provides advocacy and counseling services to support students who have experienced interpersonal violence. This may include students who become pregnant after being assaulted or are in an abusive relationship. To make an appointment or for more information, contact the office at (574) 284-4081.

### **Housing**

Pregnant students can be accommodated in all of our residence halls, as space allows, or will be granted a special exception to be released from their housing contract. At the current time we do not have family housing, so babies/children and partners are not allowed to live on campus. To make an appointment or for more information, call (574) 284-4522.

### **Other**

- Belles Against Violence Office - (574) 284-4081
- Center for Faith, Action, and Ministry - (574) 284-5391
- Health and Counseling Center - (574) 284-4805
- Student Lactation Room - Student Center Suite 244

## OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Catholic Charities-West Region Office  
1817 Miami St  
South Bend, IN 46613  
(574) 234-3111  
[ccwr@ccfwsb.org](mailto:ccwr@ccfwsb.org)
- Family Justice Center  
533 North Niles Ave  
South Bend, IN 46617  
(574) 234-5900  
(574) 234-6900  
24/7 SOS Crisis Hotline 574-289-HELP(4357)  
[fjcsjc.org](http://fjcsjc.org)

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