



Pregnant and Parenting Students Resource Guide

Elmhurst University supports pregnant and parenting students as they balance academic, work, and family obligations. Elmhurst strives to provide students with appropriate on and off-campus resources to allow students to be successful as they navigate their various roles and responsibilities.

It is the policy of Elmhurst University to provide equal opportunity and protection against discrimination and harassment, as defined in the University's Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy and as otherwise prohibited by state and federal statutes. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which extends to pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities.

The Resources for Pregnant and Parenting Students Policy covers pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination or loss of pregnancy, recovery from birth, and care for infants (including breastfeeding and pumping). The Policy is found within the institution's Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy, which is available in full at www.elmhurst.edu/titleix.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I am pregnant, will I be able to continue to attend Elmhurst University?

Pregnant students may continue participating all classes and co-curricular activities and organizations. Students who are pregnant are treated as students who have temporary medical conditions. Students can request reasonable adjustments or accommodations to better help them continue their classes or co-curricular activities while pregnant.

What are possible reasonable accommodations I can receive?

Reasonable accommodations for pregnant and parenting students are the same as accommodations offered to students with other temporary medical conditions. Reasonable accommodations may include, but are not limited to, providing a larger desk or workspace, extended deadlines, make-up test dates, alternate assignments to replace in-class participation, online course completion options, excused absences, or incomplete grades.

How can I request reasonable accommodations?

A student should schedule an appointment with the Title IX Coordinator to discuss any request for accommodations.

Can I take a leave of absence due to pregnancy, childbirth, or parenting?

Yes, you can. All pregnant and parenting students wishing to take a leave of absence should contact the Director of Student Support Services and Intervention to request a leave and plan for a smooth return to the University after the leave ends. When you return to campus you will return to the same academic and co-curricular status as before the leave of absence began.

What if a faculty member says I cannot miss class, earn back missed participation, or make up missed work due to doctor appointments or recovery?

Although your professor may have an attendance and participation policy, they are bound by federal law to not discriminate against pregnant and parenting students. Faculty are obligated to excuse absences due to prenatal doctor appointments, labor and delivery, recovery, or other pregnancy-related medical needs. Your absences can be excused for as long as your doctor deems it medically necessary and you should be given the opportunity to make up any missed work or participation points. Please contact the Title IX Coordinator if you believe that your professor is not following Title IX guidelines as they relate to your academic rights as a student.

Will I have to leave on campus housing due to pregnancy?

No, you will not. You may request a release form your housing contract due to pregnancy if you choose. However, the University does not currently offer family housing, so campus housing is not available to students who wish to have children live with them.

Will I be eligible for additional financial aid due to pregnancy or parenting?

It depends. Many factors go into determining a student's Dependency Status as it relates to federal and institutional financial aid. It is recommended that you reach out to Student Financial Services to determine your individual eligibility.

I plan to or am currently breastfeeding and need a place to feed or pump. Where can I do that?

The University has lactation rooms available in the locations listed below.

- A.C. Buehler Library 015
- Circle Hall 207
- Frick Center 136 (off the dining area)
- Hammerschmidt Chapel 020
- Memorial Hall 016

[Elmhurst University Resources](#)

Assistant Dean of Students & Title IX Coordinator

Jennifer K. Duffield
Frick Center 240A
(630) 617-5199 | jenn.duffield@elmhurst.edu

Access and Disability Services Director

Dr. Linda Harrell
Learning Center, A.C. Buehler Library
(630) 617-6448 | disability.services@elmhurst.edu

Director of Student Support Services and Intervention

Kelly Pizarro
Frick Center 223
(630) 617-5790 | kelly.pizarro@elmhurst.edu

Assistant Director of Financial Aid Counseling, Student Financial Services

Kelsey Plefka
Goebel Hall 108
(630) 617-3075 | kelsey.plefka@elmhurst.edu

Wellness Center Counseling Services and Student Health Services

Niebuhr Hall, Lower Level
(630) 617-3565 | studenthealth@elmhurst.edu

[Off Campus Resources](#)

Avenue Women's Center

580 N. Michigan Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 912-7202 – call
(630) 455-0300 – text
<https://www.avenuewomenscenter.com/>

Services: Pregnancy help and consultations, pregnancy termination information and counseling, and more

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage Center

222 East Willow Avenue

Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 784-4800

https://www.metrofamily.org/community_center/dupage/

Services: Parenting programs, before and after school programs for youth, adoption services, emergency shelter, early childhood education services, counseling, and more

Planned Parenthood – Austin Health Center

5937 W. Chicago Avenue

Chicago, IL 60651

(773) 287-2020

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/illinois/chicago/60651/austin-health-center-2265-90430>

Services: Women’s health care, pregnancy testing and services, pregnancy termination, and more

Waterleaf Women’s Center

3598 East New York Street

Aurora, IL 60504

(630) 701-6270 – call

(630) 360-2256 – text

<https://waterleafwc.org/>

Services: Pregnancy counseling, pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and more

Updated September 2021