

# Pregnant and Parenting Students Resource Guide

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](#) (Title IX) also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which extends to pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities.

Elmhurst University supports pregnant and parenting students as they balance academic, work, and family obligations. The University 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. The University's [Title IX Office](#) oversees compliance with Title IX and is available to pregnant and parenting students for comprehensive support and assistance.

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 relevant rules and support resources are located in the University's Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy, which is available [here](#).

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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

Pregnant students may continue participating in 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. The accommodations will be provided on a case-by-case basis. Academic accommodations will be worked out with faculty members depending on the course requirements.

*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. 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.

*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, federal law establishes non-discrimination rules and accommodation requirements for pregnant and parenting students. Faculty are expected to work with the Title IX Office on accommodations that may excuse students' absences due to prenatal doctor appointments, labor and delivery, recovery, or other pregnancy-related medical needs. Your absences may be excused as long as your doctor deems it medically necessary and you should be given a fair 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 Parenting Rooms available in the locations listed below.

- A.C. Buehler Library 220
- Koplín Hall 207
- Frick Center 136 (off the dining area)
- Hammerschmidt Chapel 020
- Memorial Hall 016

Each room has a comfortable seating area, microwave, changing table and lighting. Please contact the [Title IX Coordinator](#) to obtain a key for any of these Parenting Rooms.

## **Elmhurst University Resources**

Title IX Coordinator  
Natalie Brouwer  
Frick Center 240A  
(630) 617-5199 | [title\\_ix@elmhurst.edu](mailto:title_ix@elmhurst.edu)

Access and Disability Services Director  
Dr. Linda Harrell  
Learning Center, A.C. Buehler Library  
(630) 617-6448 | [disability.services@elmhurst.edu](mailto:disability.services@elmhurst.edu)

Director of Student Support Services and Intervention  
Colleen Zavodny  
Frick Center 223  
(630) 617-5790 | [colleen.zavodny@elmhurst.edu](mailto:colleen.zavodny@elmhurst.edu)

Wellness Center Counseling Services and Student Health Services  
Niebuhr Hall, Lower Level  
(630) 617-3565 | [studenthealth@elmhurst.edu](mailto: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, 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/](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, 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

For additional information, please see the U.S. Department of Education's Title IX pregnancy and parenting guidance [here](#).