Student Pregnancy and Postpartum Assistance and Accommodations Policy

I. Policy Statement

Portland State University (PSU) is committed to providing equal opportunities to all qualified students who are pregnant or have been pregnant.

II. Reason for Policy/Purpose

PSU is committed to supporting students who are or have recently been pregnant, in order for students to meet their educational goals. We are committed to creating an environment that provides equal access to educational benefits and program participation, including pregnant and postpartum students.

PSU will provide reasonable and appropriate adjustments and flexibility, upon request, to students based on their pregnancy or postpartum circumstances. Such circumstances may include pregnancy, complications arising from pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, false pregnancy, miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these circumstances.

III. Applicability

This policy applies to all prospective and current students.

This policy does not apply to employees. Employees, including student employees, who need flexibility in their work schedules, workplace accommodations, and/or leave from work should contact Human Resources to request leave and/or accommodations.

IV. Definitions

1 – Student Pregnancy and Postpartum Assistance and Accommodations Policy
Pregnancy is the state of carrying a developing embryo or fetus within the body, childbirth, false pregnancy, miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions.

Postpartum is the period of recovery and adjustment following childbirth, for up to twelve weeks or as specified by a medical professional.

Reasonable Adjustments may include, but are not limited to:

1. Providing adjustments requested by pregnant students to protect the health and safety of students and/or the pregnancy (such as allowing students to maintain a safe distance from hazardous substances);
2. Making modifications to the physical environment (such as accessible seating);
3. Extending deadlines and/or allowing students to make up tests or assignments missed for pregnancy- or postpartum-related absences;
4. Offering alternative learning options, such as a written assignment in place of an exam;
5. Excusing medically-necessary absences in a manner similar to other excused absences;
6. Granting leave for classes that will be resumed at a future date or implementing incomplete grades; or
7. Allowing breastfeeding students reasonable time and space to pump breast milk in a location that is private, clean, and reasonably accessible. Bathroom stalls do not satisfy this requirement.

Nothing in this policy requires modification to the fundamental learning outcomes of any academic program.

Disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and as defined by the Federal Fair Housing Act for accommodations made in University Housing. Disability can be temporary or permanent. Pregnant students may qualify for reasonable accommodations through the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

Reasonable Accommodations are modifications or adjustments to a policy, procedure, or practice, or auxiliary aid or service, provided to a qualified person with a disability to enable the person to a) participate in educational programs and activities; b) access PSU facilities and events; or c) have equal use and enjoyment of University Housing. Pregnant students may qualify for reasonable accommodations based on complications related to pregnancy, a temporary medical condition, and/or a disability. Some examples of this could be receiving ergonomic furniture, accessible classrooms, or the ability to take breaks during class.

Interactive Process is an informational exchange between faculty/advisor, student, and the appropriate support center staff (Services for Students with Children and/or Disability Resource
Center as well as the assistance of PSU’s Title IX and/or ADA/504 Coordinator) to determine reasonable flexibility and adjustments and/or reasonable accommodations.

**Instructors** include PSU employees who are responsible for teaching classes or supervising academic work, including faculty, instructors and graduate teaching assistants.

**Advisor** is the student’s assigned academic advisor.

**Services for Students with Children (SSWC)** is the department on campus which provides support for pregnant and parenting students. If needed, SSWC will assist students who are pregnant, have a pregnancy related condition, or are in the postpartum period by coordinating an interactive process with their instructors and/or to determine reasonable adjustments.

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### V. Policy/Procedure

1. **Students requesting adjustments in their academics, such as time off from classes, extensions on assignments, or leave from academic programs:**

   1.1 PSU and its faculty, staff, and other employees will not require students to limit their studies as the result of pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions. However, if students desire to take a leave of absence from their education, the SSWC or the Title IX Coordinator will assist the student in doing so.

   1.2 SSWC will determine if a student’s request is on the basis of a disability and in such a case SSWC will refer the student to the DRC. The DRC will engage in the interactive process based on the DRC’s procedures and make a determination of reasonable accommodations on the basis of PSU’s Reasonable Accommodation and Access Policy.

   1.3 Instructors may ask for medical or other documentation of the pregnancy or related condition if instructors ask students for documentation for other medical conditions or emergencies when a student seeks adjustments in their academic requirements due to an exigent circumstance.

   1.4 When pregnant or postpartum students request academic adjustments, there are three options:

      1.4.1 Students may make a request for adjustments directly through their instructors as soon as they are aware an adjustment will be necessary. Students and their instructors may mutually agree upon adjustments without involving the SSWC or Title IX Coordinator, so long as the agreed upon adjustments do not alter the learning outcomes.

      1.4.2 Instructors who are contacted by students asking for adjustments due to pregnancy may refer students to the SSWC to engage and participate in an interactive process.
1.4.3 Students may directly request the SSWC to engage in an interactive process without first approaching the instructors and the SSWC will contact students’ instructors.

1.5 Students and/or their instructors should confirm agreed upon adjustments by PSU email.

1.6 Should a student and instructor be unsuccessful in agreeing upon reasonable adjustments, SSWC will refer the matter to PSU’s Title IX Coordinator and the Title IX Coordinator will make a determination of a reasonable adjustment, which will be communicated via email.

2. Students enrolled in laboratory or other courses where they may be exposed to chemicals or other toxic material

2.1 Faculty members should inform students who disclose they are pregnant of any potential risks posed by material or equipment in a laboratory or other educational setting.

2.2 If the lab activities include radiation, the faculty member should refer the student to PSU’s Bio Safety Officer.

2.1.1 Students may request alternative non-lab assignments or a delay completion of such courses during their pregnancy.

2.1.2 Student may not be prevented from taking such courses based on pregnancy, if they choose to do so.

3. Students requesting lactation

3.1 Students may request to take breaks from a class for lactation purposes. Students should follow the procedures set forth in section 1 above to request breaks from class time.

3.2 PSU provides lactation facilities in various locations on campus. Students inquiring about lactation spaces available on campus should contact the SSWC.

4. Students requesting physical accessibility for on-campus space or ergonomic furniture in a classroom should contact the Disability Resource Center to request needs for physical accessibility accommodations, including ergonomic furniture.

5. Resolving Disagreements/Filing a Complaint:

5.1 Discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions listed above, is prohibited by law and PSU Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment policy.
5.1.1 Faculty, staff and other PSU employees are prohibited from interfering with students’ right to take leave, seek reasonable accommodations, or otherwise exercise their rights under this policy.

5.1.2 Faculty, staff and other PSU employees are prohibited from retaliating against students for exercising the rights articulated by this policy, including imposing or threatening to impose negative educational outcomes because students requested leave or adjustments, filed a complaint or otherwise exercised their rights under this policy.

5.2 If a student believes the student has been discriminated against on the basis of sex, gender or any other protected class, the student may contact the Global Diversity & Inclusion, Equity & Compliance to file a complaint. Global Diversity & Inclusion investigates complaints of prohibited discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender and other protected classes.

VI. Links To Related Forms

Pregnancy Declaration Form for Radiation Exposure

Office of Equity & Compliance Complaint to file a complaint

VII. Links To Related Policies, Procedures or Information

Reasonable Accommodation and Access Policy

Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment Policy

Resource Center for Students with Children

Disability Resource Center

On Campus Child Care

Radiation Safety

VIII. Contacts

Services for Students with Children
462 Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU) 1825 SW Broadway, Suite 462
Phone: 503-725-9878
Email: sswc@pdx.edu
www.pdx.edu/students-with-children/
Disability Resource Center
116 SMSU 1825 SW Broadway, 
Telephone: 503-725-4150 
Email: drc@pdx.edu 
http://www.pdx.edu/drc/

PSU’s Title IX Coordinator 
Global Diversity & Inclusion, Office of Equity & Compliance 
830 Market Center Building, 1600 SW 4th Avenue 
Telephone: (503) 725-5919 
E-mail: diversity@pdx.edu 
http://www.pdx.edu/diversity/office-of-equity-compliance

Office of Human Resources 
518 Market Center Building, 1600 SW 4th Avenue 
Telephone: (503) 725-4926 
E-mail: askhrc@pdx.edu 
Employee leaves webpage

Little Vikings Flexible Childcare 
Available for students and employees 
101 Epler Hall, 1136 SW Montgomery 
Telephone: (503) 725-8800 
http://www.littlevikings.org/

ASPSU Children’s Center 
126 Smith Memorial Student Union, 
Telephone: 503-725-2273 
http://www.pdx.edu/students-with-children/on-campus-childcare

Helen Gordon Child Development Center 
1609 SW 12th Ave 
Portland, OR 97201 
Telephone: 503-725-3092 
http://www.pdx.edu/helen-gordon-center

IX. History/Revision Dates

Adoption Date: May 1, 2018

Next Review Date: May 1, 2023

X. Policy Adoption/Reaffirmation/Revision Approvals

6 – Student Pregnancy and Postpartum Assistance and Accomodations Policy