

Title IX Requirements Regarding Pregnant and Parenting Students

Title IX provides that:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Title IX specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions. The *Title IX* regulation also prohibits a school from applying any rule related to a student's parental, family, or marital status that treats students differently based on their sex.

Classes and School Activities

Under *Title IX*, it is illegal for schools to exclude a pregnant student from participating in any part of an educational program. This prohibition applies to, but not limited to, specific classes such as advanced placement or honors classes, extracurricular programs, interscholastic sports, honor societies, and opportunities for student leadership. The University may implement special instructional programs or classes for a pregnant student, but participation must be completely voluntary on the part of the student, and the programs and classes must be comparable to those offered to other students.

Excused Absences and Medical Leave

JSU will:

- Excuse absences due to pregnancy or childbirth for as long as your doctor says it is necessary.
- Allow you to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before your medical leave began, which should include giving you the opportunity to make up any work missed while you were out.
- Ensure that teachers understand the Title IX requirements related to excused absences/medical leave. Your teacher may not refuse to allow you to submit work after a deadline you missed because of pregnancy or childbirth. If your teacher's grading is based in part on class participation or attendance and you missed class because of pregnancy or childbirth, you should be allowed to make up the participation or attendance credits you didn't have the chance to earn.
- Provide pregnant students with the same special services it provides to students with temporary medical conditions.

Helpful Tips:

For questions or to schedule an appointment to discuss this accommodation, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at 601-979-1315; (cell) 601-927-4766; or via email titleix@jsums.edu.