

Pregnant and Parenting Policy

Pregnancy and Other Medical Conditions (University Student Handbook 2016-2017, p.46)

Cardinal Stritch University and the Student Success Center are committed to supporting the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (2013). We strive for equal and uninterrupted access to all of our curriculum, programs and services.

When a student returns to class, clinical, practicum, or laboratory following an accident, extended illness, significant psychological problem, pregnancy, or potentially serious medical condition, assurance that the student is capable of performing the essential functions of the program, with or without reasonable accommodations, is imperative. Participation in clinical, practicum, or laboratory may result in some exposure to various bacteria, viruses, radiation, and/or chemicals (as would be the case in many medical-related environments). Accordingly, Stritch requires individuals with compromised immune systems and pregnant individuals to notify Stritch of such condition(s), so that appropriate precautions and accommodations can be discussed.

When a student has a compromised immune system or is pregnant, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor or program chairperson supervising the program at the earliest opportunity. Documentation from the student's physician or primary healthcare provider stating that the student is capable of performing the essential functions of the student's program, with or without reasonable accommodations, is recommended. The documentation should include a description of the student's functional limitations as a result of the condition and recommendations for dealing with the condition's impact on the student's physical activities (**such as necessary time away from class, clinicals, or labs**) **and academic activities (class notes, extended time, or alternative path to completion)**.

Such documentation should also include any restrictions (e.g., lifting, chemical exposure) the student may have during the condition or pregnancy. Pregnant students will be required to follow all directions from clinical staff regarding exposure to substances with possible teratogenic effect/toxicity. Should a student inform the instructor or program director of a pregnancy, the clinical/field placement instructor will follow federal guidelines regarding exposure of pregnant employees to radiation. Clinical/field placement faculty will attempt to accommodate students with any weight restrictions on lifting, and otherwise as appropriate.

The University's Wellness Center, located on the first floor of Clare Residence Center in Room 147, provides confidential treatment of illnesses, injuries, and other medical conditions to all Cardinal Stritch University students through a well-equipped facility and certified, professional staff of RNs and nurse practitioners. Free and low cost services at the Wellness Center are available to all full and part-time University students.

Students with disabilities or medical conditions, pregnant or parenting students seeking accommodations should contact the Student Accessibility Services Office at Bonaventure Hall Suite 1058 or 414-410-4828.

