

Section 8: Student and Academic Affairs

POLICY 8.38 PROTECTION FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

LIT is committed to providing a welcoming learning environment for pregnant and parenting students through policies that protect academic rights guaranteed under federal and state law.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy applies to students who are pregnant and parenting students. "Parenting student" is defined as a student who is the parent or legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age.

PROTECTIONS FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

LIT and its faculty and staff may not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of the student's status as a pregnant or parenting student or due to issues related to the student's pregnancy or parenting, to:

- take a leave of absence or withdraw from the student's degree or certificate program;
- limit the student's studies;
- participate in an alternative program;
- change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or
- refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at LIT.

LIT allows pregnant or parenting students to:

- take a leave of absence for a period not less than the minimum period established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule; and
- if in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, return to the student's degree or certificate program in good academic standing without being required to reapply for admission.

PARENTING STUDENT LIAISON

The Special Populations Coordinator is the designated liaison for current and incoming LIT students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The liaison provides students with information regarding support services and other resources available to parenting students, including:

- resources to access medical and behavioral health coverage and services and public benefits programs;
- parenting and childcare resources;
- employment assistance;
- transportation assistance;
- student academic success strategies; and
- such other resources developed by LIT to assist parenting students.

Students seeking a leave of absence due to parenting shall make a request for such leave to the Special Populations Coordinator.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS

LIT will, for reasons related to a student's pregnancy, childbirth, or any resulting medical status or condition:

- excuse the student's absence;
- allow the student to make up missed assignments or assessments;
- allow the student additional time to complete assignments in the same manner as LIT allows for a student with a temporary medical condition; and
- provide the student with access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for classes for which the student has an excused absence under this section to the same extent that instructional materials and video recordings of lectures are made available to any other student with an excused absence.

Students may also be entitled to other reasonable accommodations for limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions. This includes, but is not limited to, accommodations related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child, such as allowing the student to maintain a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant women or unborn children.

Students seeking information about pregnancy-related resources or requesting a pregnancy-related accommodation should contact the Special Populations Coordinator.

The office of the Special Populations Coordinator is located in the Eagles' Nest for Student Success. They may also be contacted by email at specialpopulations@lit.edu, or by phone at 409-951-5708.

REFERENCES

Tex. Ed. Code § 51.982

Tex. Ed. Code § 51.9357

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

34 C.F.R. § 106.57

Affirmed:

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Revised: