



Policy Title

Health for Pregnant Students

Identifier

USCSOMG – STAF – 7.05

Prepared by: Office for Student Affairs	
Reviewed by: Associate Dean for Student Affairs	Review Date: 08/18/2025
Approved by: USCSOMG Policy Committee	Approval Date: 09/15/2025
	Effective Date: 09/15/2025

LCME Standards

3.4 – Anti-Discrimination Policy

12.4 – Student Access to Health Care Services

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students

Policy Statement

The USC School of Medicine Greenville is committed to supporting students who have children during medical school and to working with such students to facilitate the completion of their medical education. The USC School of Medicine Greenville complies with the Federal Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PL95-555) which has as its basic principle that pregnancy and related conditions must be treated the same as any other disability or medical condition. Therefore, when necessary, a pregnant student in conjunction with appropriate faculty, may request and receive if appropriate alterations in the academic program to protect the health of the pregnant student and their fetus. However, academic standards will not be altered, and arrangements must be made to allow the student to make up any deficiency.

Reason for Policy

To provide USC School of Medicine students clarity on altering academic schedule to accommodate pregnancy, birth, and/or post-partum leave of absence during study.

Procedures

When requesting a leave of absence due to pregnancy, early communication and good-faith efforts among all parties involved are essential to ensure the least impact on a student's education. A detailed plan must be developed by the student in close collaboration with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Associate Dean for Medical Education. The plan must be completed and approved at least 3 months prior to the anticipated due date.

The pregnant medical student will be permitted to take class or clerkship release time for regular supervision by their obstetrician. At minimum, the student will be given perinatal leave of absence up to two (2) weeks before delivery and six (6) weeks postpartum. Upon the receipt of medical documentation, this period of leave may be lengthened or shortened.

Because the structure and demands of the medical education program vary throughout the four-year curriculum, the approach to leave accommodation will differ. Due to the nature of the M1 and M2 curriculum, depending on the time of year and the length of the leave, a leave of absence will require a student to take a full year of leave and return the following year. Working with the Associate Dean for Medical Education or designee, the student resumes M3 clerkships or the M4 year at a mutually agreed upon time. All students must meet all degree requirements to be eligible for graduation.

The goal of creating a safe environment for pregnant students can be facilitated by awareness of inherent risks, adopting procedures to minimize risk exposure, providing education on how to use protective equipment properly, and avoiding unnecessary risks. The responsibilities of the pregnant medical student include the following:

- 1) Seeking obstetrical care as early in pregnancy as possible and meeting all recommended appointments. It is strongly recommended that students consult with their own obstetrician regarding prevention of potentially harmful environmental and infectious exposures in laboratory and hospital environments.
- 2) Taking appropriate precautions. The student must:
 - A) Be aware of their Rubella immune status as required for matriculation in the USC School of Medicine Greenville.
 - B) A pregnant student must, as all students wear appropriate shielding protection and take all available precautions to reduce exposure. Pregnant students are instructed to wear a fetal monitoring badge, in addition to a radiation safety badge. Contact the Office for Medical Education to obtain a fetal monitoring badge upon notification of pregnancy. Students will be directed to fill out a [pregnancy declaration form](#). Please see Radiation Safety Policy (USCSOMG - STAF – 7.04). Early notification and fetal monitoring are the safest approaches. Notification of the Clerkship Director is strongly suggested as they can adjust the assigned schedule to reduce exposure to high radiation environments.
 - C) Take necessary precautions with patients in the clinical environment.
 - D) Wear a respirator with a formaldehyde/organic vapor filter while in anatomy lab.
- 3) Arranging leave time with the Office for Student Affairs and Office for Medical Education.

Sanctions

N/A

Additional Contacts

Office for Student Affairs

Office for Medical Education

Clerkship Directors & Coordinators

Related Information

[USC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook](#)

[Federal Pregnancy Discrimination Act \(PL95-555\)](#)

USCSOMG - ACAF – 4.02 Leave of Absence and Withdrawal

USCSOMG – STAF – 7.04 Radiation Safety Policy

History

Date of Change	Change
August 2025	Change Office of Academic Affairs to Office of Medical Education
June 2025	Edited for inclusive language; added Office of Academic Affairs
July 2024	Updates to branding and titles; formal approval not required.
July 2019	Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles; formal approval not required.
July 2018	Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI