

MATERNITY STUDENT POLICY

The School of Medicine 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**. The school accepts the responsibility for alterations in the academic program, if necessary, to protect the health of the pregnant student and her fetus. Academic standards will not be altered and if course work, either pre-clinical or clinical, is missed because of any disability, arrangements will be made to permit the student to make up the deficiency to the satisfaction of the faculty.

The Student Health Committee has reviewed the environmental exposures of medical students with course directors and the course director's reports were reviewed by a perinatologist. Medical student's exposures to any hazardous materials or compounds are no different than those of other women working full time in the hospital or school environment, so a normal pregnancy in a healthy medical student would require no alteration of her academic program. If the medical student has another health problem or a complicated pregnancy, alteration of the academic program would be individualized based on the obstetrician's recommendations. The pregnant medical student will be permitted class or clerkship release time for regular supervision by her obstetrician. The student will be given perinatal leave of absence without prejudice up to two (2) weeks before delivery and six (6) weeks postpartum. With the recommendation of the student's obstetrician, this period of leave may be lengthened or shortened.

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.
- 2) Taking appropriate precautions:
 - A) In radiology areas, wearing protective shielding
 - B) In clerkships, avoiding contact with identified patients who have cytomegalovirus, varicella-zoster and herpes simplex infections. The student should know her rubella immune status as required for matriculation in the School of Medicine.
- 3) Reporting pregnancy and source of obstetrical care to the Office of Student Affairs.
- 4) Arranging leave time with the Office of Student Affairs, which will notify department (s).
- 5) Notifying the Office of Student Affairs of date of return from postpartum leave. If this is less than or greater than six (6) weeks postpartum, the approval of the obstetrician should be provided.

This policy is based on the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) **Guidelines on Pregnancy and Work**. This document is in the files of the Office of Student Affairs and available to students and faculty who wish additional information.

There is a Lactation Room available when you return to school. You may sign up to use this area by seeing Sue Black and calling 647-8315. Before you leave the hospital, you should request a universal kit for breast pumps and your insurance should pay the cost.