


MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 8, 2024

TO: Tracy Hammond, PhD
Speaker, Faculty Senate

FROM: Kristen Harrell, PhD 
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed New Rule to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find new proposal to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee on Friday, February 2, 2024.

PROPOSAL

Rule 7.2.1.3.1 – Attendance

Approved by Faculty Senate on Monday, March 18, 2024

Approved by President on Friday, April 12, 2024

JUSTIFICATION

Currently, non-birthing student parents are not allowed excused absences after the birth or placement of their/a child. Birthing parents who are students are allowed excused absences for leave needed to recover under Title IX regs. Birthing and non-birthing parents who are employees are afforded leave protected by FMLA or Parental Leave after the birth, adoption or placement of a child. We are requesting you consider allowing non-birthing students parents leave as well.

PROPOSED BY:

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Department Mail Stop: 1268
Date: 11/20/2023

7.2 Absences

7.2.1.3 In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Texas A&M University shall treat pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery there from) and related conditions as a justification for an excused absence for so long a period of time as is deemed medically necessary by the student's medical provider. Requests for excused absence related to pregnancy should be directed to the instructor. Questions about Title IX should be directed to the University Title IX Coordinator.

7.2.1.3.1 Excused Absences for a student that is a non-birthing parent, adoptive parent, or guardian of a child–

- Absences related to the birth of a child, adoption of a child or foster care placement of a child under three years of age will be excused, as directed below.
- Excused absences for a birthing parent are governed by Student Rule 7.2.1.3.
- Excused absences for a non-birthing parent or guardian of a child may be taken on the day of birth/placement and the days immediately following the birth or placement of a child.
- Excused absences for a non-birthing parent or guardian shall not exceed 14 consecutive calendar days, starting the day of the birth/placement.
- Students whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for the absence and shall be automatically approved by the Title IX Office to complete a missed assignment or examination in accordance with Student Rule 7.4.1.
- Requests for excused absences must be submitted as soon as the need becomes apparent. The Title IX Office will approve or deny requests in accordance with this rule.
- Requests and related questions should be directed to Civil Rights and Equity Investigations at 979.458.8407 or TIX.Pregnancy@tamu.edu