



# College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Subject: **Guidelines for Pregnant or  
Temporarily Disabled Veterinary  
Students**

Section: Student Policy & Procedures  
Number: *CVM 55.7.43*  
Pages: 4  
Date: 2021  
Replaces Policy Dated: 2012  
Cross Reference:

## **Guidelines for Pregnant or Temporarily Disabled Veterinary Students**

The potential for human injury always exists in the practice of veterinary medicine, and the risk increases whenever an involved person is pregnant or temporarily disabled from any cause, e.g., broken leg, disease.

The greatest hazards are accidents which can occur while working with animal patients or equipment that result in injury to the student and/or her unborn child. Added hazards in several courses of the veterinary college curriculum include exposure to toxic drugs, infectious agents, inhalation anesthetics, radiation\*, and other agents.

The pregnant/temporarily disabled student should:

1. Contact a physician immediately to get recommendations to minimize exposure to the hazards associated with a veterinary student's assignments.
2. Provide a signed statement from the physician who defines permitted limits of exposure to possible hazards during pregnancy or period of disability.
3. Inform the Office of Academic Affairs and the Animal Health Center of pregnancy or temporary disability as early as possible in order that steps may be taken to conform to the plan developed by the physician and to take advantage of available options.

### **Available Options:**

1. The pregnant or temporarily disabled student could withdraw until the completion of pregnancy or resolution of the disability. The student could resume classes and graduate at the completion of all senior rotations. This option minimizes the potential for injury.
2. Continuation as a regular student with some schedule and assignment changes. This option may delay the time of graduation. This option may have risks. This option is dependent on:
  - a. Changes in an individual's schedule of clinical assignments prepared in advance for an entire calendar year.
  - b. Permission of the faculty rotation leaders to change the individual's clinical assignments.
  - c. Willingness of classmates to exchange scheduled assignments with the pregnant/ temporarily disabled student.
  - d. Certification by an attending physician of any constraints and of the individual's physical ability to continue full participation in all aspects of the educational program.

- e. A written "hold harmless" agreement signed by the student and student's spouse/ child's father.
3. Continue in all courses as assigned provided a physician has certified that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue participation.
  - a. A written "hold harmless" agreement signed by the student and student's spouse/child's father must be on file with the academic affairs office.

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

1. The pregnant/temporarily disabled student has rights and responsibilities for decisions concerning their condition and behavior based on a physician's subsequent assessment of circumstances.
2. The affected student is expected to complete each and every requirement of the veterinary curriculum by a schedule or plan that can be implemented and by which the risks are deemed assumable by the student and their attending physician.
3. A faculty member may refuse to allow a pregnant or temporarily disabled student to participate in assignments or activities whenever, in that faculty member's judgment, there exists a potential for injuries to other classmates or staff.
5. Copies of all documents pertaining to a pregnant/temporarily disabled student's assignment must be maintained in the student's file.

\*Guidelines by the Bureau of Radiation Control, Mississippi Board of Radiation.

Approved: Kent H. Hoblet 11-4-2021  
Kent H. Hoblet, Dean Date

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI    )  
OKTIBBEHA COUNTY    )

**Release, Hold Harmless, and Indemnification Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (STUDENT AND ADDRESS), a duly enrolled student in the College of Veterinary Medicine (COLLEGE) of Mississippi State University, a constituent institution of the State of Mississippi; and I, \_\_\_\_\_ (CHILD'S FATHER AND ADDRESS), father of the unborn fetus/child, do agree, both jointly and separately as follows in consideration for permission by COLLEGE for STUDENT to continue her studies in COLLEGE during her pregnancy.

1. STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER acknowledge that STUDENT is pregnant and that they have so informed COLLEGE of this fact on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date).
2. STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER acknowledge that they have read and understood COLLEGE document "Guidelines for Pregnant or Temporarily Disabled Veterinary Students," a copy of which is attached to and made a part of this agreement.
3. STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER agree that STUDENT voluntarily chose to continue as a student under Option 2 of the "Guidelines."
4. STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER acknowledge that they individually and jointly understand that there may be risks for STUDENT and/or CHILD associated with the continuation of STUDENT's studies under Option 2 and they do hereby agree, both individually and jointly, to assume as risks both to STUDENT and CHILD that may arise out of STUDENT's continued enrollment in COLLEGE. We have read the materials provided by the COLLEGE which detail some of the known risks of chemicals, radiation, and physical injury which exist in the veterinary medical program. STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER, both individually and jointly, agree to assume all risks, both to STUDENT and CHILD that may arise out of STUDENT's continued enrollment in COLLEGE.
5. STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER, individually and jointly, do hereby agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify COLLEGE, Mississippi State University, Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning, officers, administrators, employees, and agents against any and all claims of personal injury or bodily injury to STUDENT that relate to the pregnancy of STUDENT and that arise out of acts or omissions that occur while STUDENT is meeting the assignments and requirements of a student in COLLEGE during the period \_\_\_\_\_ (Dates).
6. STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER, individually and jointly, do hereby agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify COLLEGE, Mississippi State University, Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning, officers, administrators, employees, and agents against any and all claims of personal injury or bodily injury that may be made by or on behalf of the born or unborn CHILD or STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER when such claims arise out of acts or omissions that occurred while STUDENT was pregnant and enrolled as a student in COLLEGE during the period \_\_\_\_\_ (Dates) .

7. STUDENT and CHILD'S FATHER agree that this Release, Hold Harmless, and Indemnification agreement shall be binding on them, their heirs, and assigns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student                      Date                      (Seal)                      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Father                      Date                      (Seal)                      \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned Notary Public, in and for Oktibbeha County in the State of Mississippi

Hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Whose names are signed to the foregoing instrument and who are known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of this instrument, they executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand and official seal this, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission expires:

\_\_\_\_\_