

National Taiwan Ocean University

Guidelines for Safeguarding the Right to Education of Pregnant Students and Providing Counseling and Support

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- I. In order to implement the provisions of Article 14-1 of the Gender Equity Education Act, actively safeguard the right to education of pregnant students, and provide necessary assistance, the University hereby formulates these Guidelines.
- II. These Guidelines apply to students who hold an active student status at the University, including general students, as well as students who are pregnant, have previously been pregnant (including abortion, miscarriage, or having a child placed for adoption), and students who have and are raising children.
- III. The University shall, through various teaching and educational activities, educate and promote the prevention of unintended pregnancy, and shall actively foster a campus culture that is diverse, empathetic, inclusive, friendly, equal, and non-discriminatory, so as to safeguard students' basic human rights and protect their right to education, including:
 - (1) Implementing gender equity education and sex education curricula or activities, cultivating students' healthy and safe sexual attitudes and behaviors, and enabling them to acquire the knowledge and skills to avoid unintended pregnancy.
 - (2) Educating faculty, staff, students, and parents to adopt an accepting and caring attitude toward students who are pregnant or who have and are raising children.
 - (3) Incorporating, in relevant educational activities or training programs, advocacy and training on topics such as the prevention and handling of student pregnancy cases and the strengthening of professional competence.
- IV. When safeguarding the right to education of pregnant students and providing necessary counseling and assistance, the University shall strictly observe professional ethics, respect privacy, adopt necessary confidentiality measures, and carry out its work in accordance with the following principles and division of responsibilities:
 - (1) Upon discovering that a minor student is pregnant, the Gender Equity Education Committee shall immediately establish a response task force. The President shall serve as the convener. Heads of relevant administrative units and academic departments closely related to the student's coursework and learning environment shall serve as ex officio members. The Secretary-General shall act as the spokesperson, and the University's crisis response mechanism shall be activated.
 - (2) The task force may appoint on- or off-campus persons with relevant professional expertise or experience in handling cases involving pregnant students as task force members.
 - (3) In accordance with the needs of the case, the task force shall promptly prepare a division-of-responsibilities plan, centralize authority and coordination, and the Gender Equity Education Committee shall establish a single point of contact.
 - (4) The task force shall jointly discuss and implement matters related to consultation and counseling, mandatory reporting of responsibility, fundraising, integration of social resources, and compilation/reporting of information, as stipulated in these

Guidelines.

- (5) The task force may, based on the allocation of duties, be divided into counseling and administrative task groups, with their primary tasks as follows:

1. Counseling Group:

- 1) Members of the Counseling Group shall include the Section Chief of the Counseling and Guidance Section, Office of Student Affairs; counseling psychologists/counselors; a nurse from the Health Care Section, Office of Student Affairs; and the class advisor. Where necessary, the University may appoint off-campus counseling professionals to serve as consulting advisors.
- 2) The counseling psychologist/counselor shall serve as the case manager and shall allocate duties appropriately in accordance with the student's needs.
- 3) The Group shall formulate an overall counseling plan, convene case meetings on a regular basis, and revise the plan in a timely manner as appropriate.
- 4) The Group shall establish case counseling records for pregnancy-related incidents and, in accordance with professional ethics, properly retain, manage, and safeguard such data.
- 5) The counseling services shall include:
 - i. Providing individual guidance and counseling to pregnant students.
 - ii. Providing diversified and individualized educational implementation measures to assist students in completing their studies and safeguarding their right to education.
 - iii. Utilizing social resources to assist pregnant students with placement arrangements during the prenatal period, and to support childcare needs after childbirth, as well as the childcare needs of students who are already raising children.
 - iv. Providing family consultation and support to pregnant students, and, where necessary, providing assistance to other relevant parties.
 - v. Assisting with referrals to relevant social welfare resources.
 - vi. Providing consultation to the task force and other faculty members.
 - vii. Coordinating the provision of health and medical support, including prenatal health consultations and infant/child care consultations.

2. Administrative Group:

- 1) Coordinating matters related to student status and coursework:
 - i. The Division of Registration and Curriculum of the Office of Academic Affairs (and the Continuing Education and Extension Section, as applicable) and the Life Guidance Services Section of the Office of Student Affairs shall handle student status and course-related issues with flexibility, including attendance records, make-up examinations, and remedial instruction.

- ii. In accordance with relevant laws and regulations, assessments or evaluations of pregnant students' academic performance shall be handled as a "special incident."
- 2) Based on student needs, the University shall integrate relevant resources to provide pregnant students with diversified and individualized education, which shall include:
 - i. Remedial instruction: Assisting the student in completing courses within the program requirements; the department/institute head shall coordinate matters relating to remedial instruction.
 - ii. Course planning: Providing assistance with course enrollment arrangements and planning.
 - iii. Pregnancy-related needs: The Health Care Section of the Office of Student Affairs may provide education on prenatal and postpartum care, knowledge and skills related to the prevention of unintended pregnancy, and family/parenting education.
- 3) Integrating on- and off-campus resources to support the counseling unit:
 - i. Providing funding arrangements for course scheduling and venues, selecting suitable instructors, and integrating on- and off-campus resources to assist the Counseling Group in implementing necessary counseling measures.
 - ii. The Office of Student Affairs and the Office of General Affairs shall cooperate with the Counseling Group to assist pregnant students and students raising children and their families in utilizing on- and off-campus resources to address potential family difficulties and childcare needs.
- 4) Providing an accessible learning environment for pregnant students or students raising children: The Office of General Affairs and the Health Care Section of the Office of Student Affairs shall, in accordance with student needs, plan the following facilities:
 - i. Appropriate classroom arrangements, desk and chair adjustments, parking facilities, restroom locations, etc.
 - ii. Procurement of additional sanitary equipment and facilities, as needed.
 - iii. Facilities related to breastfeeding and milk expression/collection, such as a lactation room, refrigerator, and nursing room.

(6) Adult students or married students who have pregnancy-related needs may apply to the University for assistance, and such matters shall be handled in accordance with this provision.

- V. The Gender Equity Education Committee shall incorporate matters concerning the safeguarding of pregnant students' right to education and the provision of necessary counseling and assistance into its annual work plan, and shall ensure effective implementation, so as to build a friendly, non-discriminatory, and equitable campus environment.

- VI. The University shall not, on the grounds that a student is pregnant or raising children, impose improper disciplinary actions, or explicitly or implicitly require the student to take a leave of absence, transfer to another school, withdraw from school, or take an extended leave. Students who experience discrimination or improper actions by the University may file an appeal or seek remedies in accordance with the Gender Equity Education Act or other applicable laws and regulations.
- VII. The University shall proactively adopt flexible measures, in accordance with relevant regulations on student status and academic assessment or evaluation, to assist pregnant students or students raising children in completing their studies.
- VIII. The University shall integrate resources from competent agencies and units, including education, social welfare, household registration, labor, health and medical services, police administration, and other relevant sectors, to provide pregnant students or students raising children with counseling, referral, placement, health care, employment support, family support, economic security, legal assistance, and diversified individualized education, so as to safeguard their rights and interests and provide the maximum possible assistance.
- IX. The University shall improve relevant campus facilities and provide pregnant students or students raising children with a friendly and safe learning environment.
- X. The University shall secure relevant funding, or apply to the Ministry of Education for subsidies, to conduct counseling services and diversified individualized education for pregnant students or students raising children.
- XI. When the University becomes aware that a student is pregnant, if the matter falls within the scope of mandatory reporting under the Protection of Children and Youths Welfare and Rights Act, the Act for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youths, the Sexual Assault Crime Prevention Act, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, or other applicable laws and regulations, the University shall carry out such reporting in accordance with the relevant requirements.
- XII. At the end of each academic year, the University shall report to the Ministry of Education an overview of how student pregnancy cases were handled.
- XIII. These Guidelines shall take effect after being approved by the Gender Equity Education Committee and the University Administrative Meeting, and promulgated accordingly