

Graduate Student Parental and Adoption Accommodation Policy

Boston College recognizes the importance of family obligations to its graduate students. Any full-time graduate student in good academic standing who is the parent of a newborn child or an adoptive child under the age of 13 newly placed in the home is eligible for an accommodation. This student accommodation is not an employee medical leave or a leave of absence from the academic program.

Following the birth of a child, a graduate student who is the parent of the child is eligible for an accommodation extending for a period of up to twelve consecutive weeks. A graduate student who is the parent of an adoptive child under the age of 13 newly placed in the home is eligible for an accommodation extending for a period of up to twelve consecutive weeks immediately following the placement of the child in the home. The accommodation must be taken within the 12-month period following birth or placement of the child.

During the accommodation period, the graduate student will be relieved of the service requirements that accompany his or her funding. During the remainder of the semester (before and/or after the accommodation period), the student's program will assign service duties consistent with the academic nature of a graduate assistantship.

During the accommodation period, the graduate student may attend classes and work on course assignments to the extent possible. The student and graduate program director should work with the professors in these courses to adjust, to the extent reasonably possible, attendance requirements, assignment deadlines, and exam dates during the accommodation period. Graduate program directors and professors should work with graduate students to establish appropriate timetables for completing course work and exams during the semester in which the accommodation is taken.

Funding provided by the University, including funding for health insurance, will continue during the accommodation period. In addition:

- The accommodation policy will not extend the total number of years of funding available to a student.
- Students who receive an accommodation under this policy will receive automatically a one semester extension to their maximum time to complete their degree for every childbirth or adoption placement. Total extensions invoked under this policy will ordinarily not exceed a year.
- For students with 9-month stipends, funding is for the academic year only.

Students funded by government grants or other external sources must follow the policies of their funding agency. If external funding is suspended or reduced during the accommodation period, the University will assume funding responsibility for the accommodation period. Details of the arrangement should be worked out in writing between the student, graduate program director and the Associate Dean for Graduate Academic Affairs, and reported to the Vice Provost for Faculties before the accommodation period begins.

Graduate students anticipating a childbirth or adoption accommodation must notify their advisor and submit a written request to their graduate program director and the Associate Dean. The Associate Dean will inform the Vice Provost for Faculties of all such requests. Requests for accommodation should be made as soon as practicable and ideally no less than three months before the expected start of the accommodation period in order to allow appropriate arrangements to be made to cover any teaching, teaching assistantship, or research responsibilities. Departments are encouraged to work out specific arrangements with students, on a case-by-case basis, within the broad framework of this policy.