CHILDREN ON CAMPUS

POLICY

Sherman College recognizes unique needs that may exist for students who are parents, guardians or caregivers and is committed to providing support to students in these roles. The college demonstrates an understanding of their possible needs through college policies and services designed to support their overall academic goals. With priority on student success, available options are structured to facilitate strategic decision-making by our students for their family and academic program.

All students are encouraged to be familiar with the support that is made available through the various policies listed on the final page of this policy. In addition, the college's Chiropractic Center and pediatric and perinatal department are available to provide consistent chiropractic care for expecting mothers and babies. In addition, they, along with the Office of Student Affairs, offer recommendations and connections to community resources for our students and their families in all phases of life, when applicable.

The college openly welcomes visitors and invites them to enjoy our campus. The protocols for visitor access to campus are designed to ensure everyone's safety and uphold the academic community's integrity. For more information, please refer to Policy 3083. This policy also provides guidance specifically for students who are parents, addressing the presence of children during campus visits. The college strives to support all campus members by providing clear guidelines to ensure everyone's understanding to help minimize disruption of the learning environment.

Children (minors) are welcome on campus under the following positive conditions:

1. **Chiropractic Center Visits**: Children are welcome as patients or when accompanying a patient in the Chiropractic Center.
2. **Class Participation**: Children can participate as patients/models for specific classes or clubs. Parents must check the child in as a guest with campus security on the day of the event and notify student affairs of the child's attendance in advance of the day of the event. This participation is a unique opportunity for children to engage in the academic environment.
3. **Campus Events**: Outside of class/clinic time, children can join their parents on campus grounds for events such as having lunch together, fun day, Thanksgiving lunch, Lyceum, open community events, etc.
4. **Infant Attendance**: To support students transitioning back to campus after childbirth while respecting the academic community's standards, the college allows newborn infants up to eight (8) weeks of age to attend classes with their enrolled parents provided they do not disrupt the learning environment. Any parent seeking this option must preregister with the Office of Student Affairs prior to returning to campus for classes. Parents are

encouraged to speak to student affairs during their pregnancy for further details about this allowance and other resources available to them while coordinating their early parenting plans. Students who need more than eight (8) weeks of uninterrupted time with their newborn are advised to consult Policies 1018, 1041, and 1055 to explore their options.

Under specific circumstance infants and children are permitted in the instructional environment, however they must be supervised by their campus hosts at all times while on campus and should not use campus resources that could interfere with the needs of enrolled students (e.g., occupying study rooms).

The following exclusions apply when children and infants are allowed on campus in the academic environment during active instruction:

1. They are prohibited from being present during any test or exam administration environment unless they are the patient/model for the exam.
2. For safety purposes, they are not allowed in the anatomy lab.
3. Infants are not permitted to accompany their parent(s) when either parent is working as an intern and actively providing patient care in the Chiropractic Center.

Unforeseen or Unexpected Childcare Issues

Students who are parents or caregivers may have unforeseen or unexpected situations arise, preventing them from attending class due to childcare/school issues or child health issues. In such cases, students are encouraged to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss available options for obtaining course material. The college encourages faculty to work with students in these situations, demonstrating our commitment to supporting our student parents. The available options are at the instructor's discretion with respect to the type of class and how it is being taught.

Scheduled school, daycare, or sitter closings (i.e., teacher workdays, holidays, breaks, etc.), are not considered unforeseen or unexpected closings. Students are expected to arrange care for their child(ren) under these circumstances or communicate these scheduling conflicts with instructors in advance to determine what alternative options are available to obtain class material or participate remotely.

Members of the campus community should send written notices or come meet with the director of student affairs to report repeated violations or abuse of this policy.

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Also see:

Policy 1018 – Leave of Absence/Withdrawal and Maintaining Credits for Leave of Absence
Policy 1041 – Attendance
Policy 1055 – Short-Term Health-Related Absences
Policy 3083 – Visitor Policy
Policy 8027 – Harassment and Non-Discrimination