

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



SENATE POLICY:
V-303

VANCOUVER SENATE
c/o Enrolment Services
2016 - 1874 East Mall
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z1

Number & Title

V-303: *Graduate Student Parental Accommodation Policy*

Effective Date:

2 January 2013

Approval Date:

September 2012 (anticipated)

Review Date:

This policy shall be reviewed two (2) years after approval and thereafter as deemed necessary by the *responsible committee*.

Responsible Committee:

Vancouver Senate Academic Policy Committee

Authority:

University Act, S. 37(1)

“The academic governance of the university is vested in the senate and it has the following powers:

...(p) to deal with all matters reported by the faculties, affecting their respective departments or divisions;...”

and,

S. 40

...(g) to deal with and, subject to an appeal to the senate, to decide on all applications and memorials by students and others in connection with their respective faculties;

(h) generally, to deal with all matters assigned to it by the board or the senate...

Purpose and Goals:

This policy aims to promote the success of graduate students who become new parents by providing a mechanism to recognize the challenges of balancing the demands of bearing and/or parenting a new child and working towards academic goals. The policy makes it possible for a student to maintain full-time student status during an eight-week period surrounding the arrival of a new child, with all the benefits of such status, by standardizing a minimum level of academic accommodation during that period. It also entitles eligible students to extended deadlines for meeting standard academic progress targets.

Applicability:

Students currently registered full-time in graduate programs at the University of British Columbia including those administered by faculties other than the Faculty of Graduate Studies, who are in Good Standing and making satisfactory progress toward the completion of their degree. Students must have completed at least one term of full-time study in their program.

Exclusions:

This policy does not apply to:

- 1) Students enrolled in the Pharm.D. program; and,
- 2) Students in undergraduate programs including the M.D., J.D. and D.M.D. programs. N.B. – Students in dual degree programs (e.g., M.D./Ph.D., D.M.D./Ph.D, J.D./MAAPPS) may be eligible, through discussion with both programs.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this policy:

- *Parental Accommodation* shall mean the modification of academic deadlines and expectations in order to be flexible and to accommodate the student's new parental responsibilities, as mutually agreed upon by the student and her/his supervisor or program advisor in advance of the *parental accommodation period*.
- *Parental Accommodation Period* shall mean a period of up to eight (8) consecutive weeks, starting within eight (8) weeks of the (expected or actual) date of childbirth or adoption.

- *Course of Study* shall mean the academic program in which the student is registered.

Policy:

- 1) A graduate student with substantial parenting responsibilities for a newborn or newly adopted child under the age of six (6) during their *course of study* may apply for a *parental accommodation*.
- 2) *Parental accommodation periods* must be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies; or, in the case of programs not administered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, by their respective Dean.
- 3) An application for a *parental accommodation* shall be made as far in advance of the requested *parental accommodation period* as possible, with 30 days being the minimum notice allowed.
- 4) Students who are approved for *parental accommodation* will be granted a *parental accommodation period*.
- 5) During the *parental accommodation period*, the student will continue to be registered as a full-time student, and tuition and student fees must be paid as usual.
- 6) Academic deadlines and expectations are to be flexible and modified to accommodate the student's new parental responsibilities, as follows:
 - a) The *Parental Accommodation Period* needs to be tailored to fit the student's individual circumstances and timing considerations.
 - b) Students will be allowed to postpone completion of course assignments, examinations and other academic requirements. Such modifications of academic expectations should be mutually agreed upon by the student and her/his supervisor or program advisor in advance of the *Parental Accommodation Period*.
 - c) It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that this consultation takes place, and
 - d) It is the responsibility of the supervisor or advisor to be flexible in her/his expectations.
- 7) In the event that a student and his or her supervisor or program advisor cannot come to an agreement regarding the modification of an academic expectation under Section 6, the Dean shall make a

determination on behalf of the Faculty.

- 8) Graduate programs that are structured with regard to the sequencing and scheduling of courses and other academic requirements, such as those that are cohort based, may have particular constraints on modifications to academic scheduling, but are still expected to exercise as much flexibility as possible in supporting a student during an *Parental Accommodation Period*.
- 9) For graduate students enrolled in undergraduate courses, normal concession policies for those courses still apply.

Modification of Time Limits

- 10) Students who are approved for *parental accommodation* will automatically have four-months added to their maximum allowable time in program, and, for doctoral students, to their maximum allowable time to advance to candidacy.
- 11) Individual graduate programs are expected to extend any internal deadlines for the completion of academic requirements (such as comprehensive exams or coursework) by a minimum of four-months.
- 12) Further extensions beyond these minimums are possible, subject to the approval of both the graduate program and the Faculty of Graduate Studies or the administering Faculty.

Graduate Awards and Fellowships

- 13) A graduate student granted a *parental accommodation period* retains the full value of any fellowship or other award for which the terms and conditions are established by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and will experience no change in this funding during the *parental accommodation period*. Payments will continue on the usual schedule. There will be no change to the total amount granted or to the completion date of the scholarship.
- 14) Awards for which the terms and conditions are not established by the Faculty of Graduate Studies will be paid according to the terms conditions established by the donor or granting agency.

Calendar Statement:

As per the Applicability, Exclusions and Policy Sections above.

Consultations

The following groups have been consulted during the development of this policy:

Access & Diversity, Counseling Services, Enrolment Services, Faculties, Legal Counsel, Office of the Ombudsperson for Students, Office of the Vice-President, Academic

History:

This is a new policy that has been proposed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Council after consultation with graduate students.

Related Policies:

Academic Concession

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>

Academic Leave

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,289,0,0>

Letter of Permission to Study at another Institution

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,47,0,0>

Graduate Student Leaves of Absence (In progress)

Senate Appeals on Academic Standing

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,53,0,0>

Appendix:

There is no appendix to this policy.