

Pregnancy and Professional Experience Placements

In the same way that a pregnancy presenting without complications should not unduly disrupt the professional life of a teacher during its first and second trimesters, so such a pregnancy should not unduly disrupt a student's practicum commitments during those stages of her pregnancy.

The College, however, has an obligation to ensure that there is a safe learning environment for its students and to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that where a student is subject to particular risks she is able to learn in an environment which avoids those risks.

In the case of practicum commitments, these obligations require the College to establish whether or not the particular pregnancy presents without complications.

Accordingly, a student who becomes pregnant must, prior to the end of the first trimester of her pregnancy, provide the Director of Professional Experience with a certificate from her treating health practitioner setting out the anticipated date of delivery and certifying whether or not the pregnancy presents without complications.

Where a pregnancy is certified as presenting with complications the certificate must specify the practical teaching activities which the student would be best advised to avoid during the her pregnancy.

Prior to the end of the second trimester a further certificate from the student's treating health practitioner must be provided. In addition to setting out the anticipated date of delivery and certifying whether or not the pregnancy continues to present without complications, the certificate must specify the practical teaching activities which the student would be best advised to avoid during the final trimester of her pregnancy.

A student proceeding on a professional experience placement during her pregnancy must strictly comply with any directions as to activities which may or may not be undertaken during a professional experience placement.

A student who develops a pregnancy-related illness at any time must immediately inform the Director of Professional Experience of the illness and must, as soon as practicable, provide a certificate from her treating health practitioner setting out the nature of the illness and specifying the practical teaching activities which the student would be best advised to avoid during balance of her pregnancy.

A student suffering a pregnancy-related illness must not proceed on a professional experience placement unless the placement is first approved by the Director of Professional Experience. The student must strictly comply with any directions or conditions forming part of any such approval.