FAMILIES MATTER
A Resource Guide for Graduate Student Parents

About one in ten of Berkeley’s graduate population is a student parent. UC Berkeley recognizes that a family-friendly academic culture is essential to the success and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff. The University is committed to supporting policies, programs, and services to help graduate student parents meet their family care obligations while they pursue their academic goals.

This brochure offers an overview of resources that can help graduate students balance academic and family responsibilities.

BERKELEY FAMILY HOUSING

About half of Berkeley’s graduate student parents live in university housing at University Village in Albany. Over 900 family housing units are available for student families (undergraduate and graduate), from one-bedroom/one-bath to three-bedroom/two-bath apartments. As wait lists are common, register your interest as early as possible, even before arriving on campus.

Phone: (510) 642-4109
Email: apts@berkeley.edu
housing.berkeley.edu/universityvillage

NETWORKS

STUDENT PARENT CENTER
Student Parent Programs provides information, child care referrals, problem-solving counseling, and advocacy for the needs of student parents. It offers a central, cheerful, inviting space for student parents who need to be on campus with their children, opportunities to network with other student parents, and access to computers and kitchen facilities.

100 Cesar Chavez Student Center
Phone: (510) 643-5729
Email: studentparents@berkeley.edu
studentparents.berkeley.edu

GRADUATE ASSEMBLY (GA)
The graduate student government sponsors programs to support graduate student parents.

ga.berkeley.edu/projects/gspa

BERKELEY PARENTS NETWORK
Created by UC Berkeley graduate students in 1993, this independent, free, volunteer-run online community offers parent-to-parent advice and local referrals via email newsletters, on childcare, pediatricians, schools, and much more. To subscribe to the newsletters, visit:

berkeleyparentsnetwork.org

QUESTIONS?
The Graduate Division is here to help. After consulting your departmental Graduate Student Affairs Officer (GSAO) and checking these resources, if you have more questions or need assistance, contact:

Student Life Coordinator
318 Sproul Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720-5900
Phone: (510) 642-4071
gradlife@berkeley.edu

Student Parents Center

Berkeley
Graduate Division
ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic accommodations are mandated by the Graduate Council of the Academic Senate for graduate students who are pregnant and/or have substantial parenting responsibilities. By university policy and state and federal law, all faculty and academic departments and programs must grant applicable accommodations — including extension of time for academic milestones and parenting leave with rights to re-enrollment — to qualifying students. These provisions are detailed in the Guide to Graduate Policy, the document governing all policies related to graduate education at UC Berkeley.

http://grad.berkeley.edu/policy/degrees-policy/#f6-student-parent-policies

CHILD CARE

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM (ECEP)
The University’s Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) provides early childhood services to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers at five centers in Berkeley and Albany. ECEP’s goal is to help student parents balance school, work, and family. ECEP teaches Berkeley’s youngest students in a safe, nurturing, stimulating environment that sparks curiosity. A number of spaces are reserved for the children of student parents, and subsidies are provided to qualified parents. To qualify for a reserved space or subsidy, one parent must be a registered UC Berkeley student. Enrollment is limited and cannot be guaranteed, so apply as early as possible.

Phone: (510) 642-1827
Email: ecep@berkeley.edu
ece.berkeley.edu

EMERGENCY BACK-UP CHILD CARE
Parents who are currently registered Berkeley students are eligible (on a first-come, first-served basis) for up to 60 hours per year of highly-subsidized back-up child care from a leading nationwide provider of care services. This back-up program helps student parents when their regular child care arrangements are unavailable and they need to attend to academic responsibilities on campus, at home, or away.

backupchildcare.berkeley.edu

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES (UHS)

INSURANCE ADVICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS
University Health Services (UHS) offers a voluntary plan through our insurance provider Anthem for dependents of students enrolled in SHIP. Fall enrollment period is July 15-September 15, and Spring enrollment period is December 1-February 1.

(800) 853-5899
https://uhs.berkeley.edu/insurance/ship-benefits
https://uhs.berkeley.edu/insurance/insurance-dependents

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT PROGRAM
The Health*Matters program of University Health Services sponsors lactation rooms at more than a half-dozen locations on campus and offers information and classes on breastfeeding, discounts on personal electric breast pumps, and supportive counseling.

University Health Services, Tang Center 2222 Bancroft Way, 3rd floor, Phone: (510) 643-4646 Email: breastfeeding@lists.berkeley.edu
https://uhs.berkeley.edu/facstaff/wellness/breastfeeding-support

FINANCIAL AID

GRADUATE STUDENT PARENT GRANT
Registered graduate student parents (single or married) with dependent children may apply for a need-based award funded by the Graduate Division. This grant may be used for expenses such as housing, dependent health insurance, child care, and/or fee and tuition costs. For more information and applications, see: grad.berkeley.edu/financial/families

CHILDBIRTH ACCOMMODATION FUNDING
Women doctoral students in good academic standing who hold a fellowship or GSI or GSR appointment, and who expect to give birth during the Fall or Spring semesters, can be excused from regular duties for a period of six weeks without loss of financial support. For more information and application, see: grad.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/childbirth_accommodation_form.pdf

REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHERS
Reimbursement for child care expenses is available to eligible GSIs for expenses incurred during the regular academic terms (Fall and Spring semesters) and Summer Session appointments. For more information, see link to application at: grad.berkeley.edu/financial/families

REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC STUDENT EMPLOYEES (GSIs, READERS, TUTORS)
Reimbursement for child care expenses is available to eligible Academic Student Employees (ASEs) as governed by the current UAW contract.

ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/labor/bargaining-units/bx/contract.html

FAMILY-RELATED ASE CONTRACT POLICIES
Academic Student Employees (ASEs) are eligible for certain parental leave policies governed by the UAW contract.

ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/labor/bargaining-units/bx/contract.html