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.

grad.berkeley.edu/students
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. It is ECEP’s goal 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 for up to 60 hours per year of highly-subsidized back-up child care from a leading nationwide provider of care services (on a first-come, first-served basis). 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) can help you learn about health insurance options for you and your family. Families have a choice of health insurance plans, including a SHIP dependent plan, marketplace exchange plans (federal and state such as Covered California), and more. Contact the free Student Insurance Helpline provided by the insurance broker.

(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: hmatters@uhs.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 GSRs 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