

Faculty of Health

Work Integrated Learning Unit Guideline for Pregnant Students

Section 1 – Purpose

This guideline establishes how the Faculty of Health will support students who are pregnant during their course and who must undertake Work Integrated Learning (WIL) during their studies.

Section 2 - Scope

The guideline applies to all courses administered by the WIL Unit that include WIL (placements, field education, simulation, labs), in both clinical and non-clinical settings, as a mandatory requirement of their course.

Section 3 - Policy

The [Community Engaged Learning Policy](#) covers the implementation of appropriate arrangements for the participation, supervision and assessment of students undertaking Community Engaged Learning.

Section 4 - Guideline Statement

Pre- and post-natal students attending WIL

The Faculty of Health has a duty of care to all students and a number of safeguards are required to ensure that a student's health and well-being are maintained during and following pregnancy. To ensure that a student's health is not compromised, pregnant students may attend WIL:

- Up to, and not more than, 36 weeks' gestation
- After, and not before, six (6) weeks post-partum

While the Faculty may be able to facilitate pregnant students to attend WIL, healthcare facilities have a duty of care to their patients/clients and may not accept pregnant students.

Lactating students attending WIL

Students who are attending WIL and who need to breastfeed will be supported in all circumstances. The clinical teacher/supervisor will be advised that the student must be given time during WIL to express breast milk and either have facilities to store the milk, or have the baby brought to the student for lactation breaks.

Vaccinations

If pregnant students are not fully protected against the specified diseases in the NSW Health policy directive [Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases](#), then neither medical practitioners, obstetricians nor midwives will allow pregnant women to complete their vaccinations.

Pre-natal students in laboratory classes

Chemicals known to have reproductive, teratogenic or carcinogenic effects are used in small amounts in undergraduate chemistry and biochemistry practical classes, however, these chemicals are always used with appropriate engineering and personal protective controls in place. Laboratory staff can source relevant information for students on request.

Students should seek medical guidance in determining physical activity limitations and must discuss any suitable arrangements that may need to be modified for laboratory classes, with their Unit Assessor.

Section 5 - Procedures

1. Pre-natal students attending WIL
 - 1.1. Students must provide to the WIL Unit a medical certificate at 34 weeks' gestation that:
 - 1.1.1. Is from a registered health practitioner (GP, midwife or obstetrician)
 - 1.1.2. Includes
 - 1.1.2.1. Provider number
 - 1.1.2.2. Signature
 - 1.1.2.3. Name of patient
 - 1.1.2.4. Date of examination
 - 1.1.2.5. Approximate due date
 - 1.1.3. Confirms that the student **is** fit to practice (FTP) – i.e. able to cope with the demands of WIL
 - 1.2. Students are cleared to attend WIL until 36 weeks' gestation
2. Pre-natal students not attending WIL
 - 2.1. Students who are less than 36 weeks' gestation who are unable to attend WIL, due to their pregnancy, must submit a Work Integrated Learning Attendance Variation Application (AVA) via Sonia Online, and must provide a medical certificate that:
 - 2.1.1. Is from a registered health practitioner (GP, midwife or obstetrician)
 - 2.1.2. Includes
 - 2.1.2.1. Provider number
 - 2.1.2.2. Signature
 - 2.1.2.3. Name of patient
 - 2.1.2.4. Date of examination
 - 2.1.2.5. Approximate due date
 - 2.1.3. Confirms that the student **is not** fit to practice (FTP) – i.e. able to cope with the demands of WIL
 - 2.2. WIL Unit to assess the WIL AVA and provide a determination to the student
 - 2.3. WIL Unit to work with the Unit Assessor to support the student to defer their WIL and to complete at a later stage

3. Post-natal students attending WIL
 - 3.1. Students must provide a medical certificate to the WIL Unit that provides clearance to return to WIL that
 - 3.1.1. Is from a registered health practitioner (GP, midwife or obstetrician)
 - 3.1.2. Includes
 - 3.1.2.1. Provider number
 - 3.1.2.2. Signature
 - 3.1.2.3. Name of patient
 - 3.1.2.4. Date of examination
 - 3.1.2.5. Approximate due date
 - 3.1.3. Confirms that the student **is** fit to practice (FTP) – i.e. able to cope with the demands of WIL
 - 3.2. Once clearance is provided, no further WIL AVAs will be approved
4. Students who are unable to meet vaccination requirements due to pregnancy
 - 4.1. Must submit a WIL AVA to the WIL Unit and must provide a medical certificate that:
 - 4.1.1. Is from a registered health practitioner (GP, midwife or obstetrician)
 - 4.1.2. Includes
 - 4.1.2.1. Provider number
 - 4.1.2.2. Signature
 - 4.1.2.3. Name of patient
 - 4.1.2.4. Date of examination
 - 4.1.2.5. Approximate due date
 - 4.1.3. Confirms that the student **is not** fit to practice (FTP) – i.e. able to cope with the demands of WIL
 - 4.2. WIL Unit to assess the WIL AVA and provide a determination to the student
 - 4.3. WIL Unit to work with the Unit Assessor to support the student to defer their WIL and to complete at a later stage