

FAMILIES MATTER



A Quick Guide for Graduate Student Parents at UC Berkeley

About one in ten of Berkeley's graduate students is a parent. Recognizing that an academic culture that is family-friendly 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 available resources to help graduate students balance academic and family responsibilities. Please visit the Student Families section of the Graduate Division website for more information (<http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/life/families.shtml>).

ACADEMIC POLICIES

The Graduate Council of the Academic Senate has adopted academic accommodation policies designed to be supportive of graduate students with substantial parenting responsibilities and doctoral students expecting to give birth. The policy statement is available online (http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/memo_doctoral_parent.shtml).

Academic Student Employees (ASEs)

ASEs should refer to family provisions in Article 17 of the UAW contract (http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/collective_bargaining_units/academicstudentemployees_bx/contract_articles/art_17.pdf).

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Student Parent Center

The Student Parent Center (SPC) provides information, child care referrals, problem solving, and advocacy for the needs of student parents. The Center offers a central location for parents who need to be on campus with children and want to arrange an informal child care exchange while in class. The cheerful, inviting space includes toys, a relaxing area for nursing, opportunities to network with other student parents, and access to a campus phone, computer, refrigerator, and microwave.

100 Cesar Chavez Student Center
Phone: (510) 643-5729
Email: trsp@berkeley.edu
<http://studentparents.berkeley.edu>

Berkeley Parents Network

In 1993, UC Berkeley graduate students created an independent parent-to-parent advice e-newsletter. Now hosted by the campus but moderated by volunteer parents, this network serves more than 20,000 subscribers in the Bay Area. You can browse the advice and referrals archived on the website or sign up to receive weekly e-newsletters (<http://parents.berkeley.edu/>).

UC Families

In 2005, Graduate Division and the UC Faculty Family Friendly Edge Initiative created an interactive e-newsletter as a resource for students, staff, and faculty throughout the UC system who are balancing academic goals or careers with family life. You can browse the advice and referrals archived on the website or sign up for periodic e-newsletters (<http://parents.berkeley.edu/ucfamilies>).

Graduate Assembly (GA)

The graduate student government sponsors programs in support of graduate student parents. For more information, see the GA website (<http://ga.berkeley.edu/>).

Financial Aid

Graduate Student Parent Grant

Registered graduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and are parents (single or married) with dependent children may apply for a need-based award funded by the Graduate Division and administered by the Financial Aid Office. This grant may be applied toward housing, dependent health insurance, child care, and/or fee and tuition costs. Apply by submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. (The school code for UC Berkeley is 001312.) Because funds are limited, students should apply by FAFSA's priority deadline, in March for the following academic year. Late applications may be considered only as funds permit.

Financial Aid Office
201 Sproul Hall
Phone: (510) 642-0485
Email: fao_grad@berkeley.edu
http://students.berkeley.edu/finaid/graduates/types_parent-grant.htm

International Graduate Student Family Grant

Registered international graduate students who have a dependent living with them may apply for a need-based award funded by the Graduate Division and administered by the Berkeley International Office. Because funds are limited, students should apply by the priority deadline in May for the following academic year. Late applications may be considered only as funds permit.

Application information is available online (http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/multiple_use/Family%20Grant%20PDF.pdf).

Berkeley International Office
2299 Piedmont (at International House)
Phone: (510) 642-2818
Email: InternationalOffice@berkeley.edu
<http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/>

Health

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
<http://www.uhs.berkeley.edu/facstaff/healthmatters/breastfeeding.shtml>

Insurance Advice for Students with Dependents

University Health Services (UHS) offers periodic workshops as well as individual counseling to assist students with dependents in choosing among private insurance options as well as federal and state public health programs. Contact the Student Health Insurance Advisor at UHS.

University Health Services, Tang Center
2222 Bancroft Way, 3rd floor
Phone: (510) 642-5700 or 642-5742
<http://www.uhs.berkeley.edu/students/insurance/families.shtml>

Family Housing

About half of Berkeley's graduate student parents live in university housing at the **Smyth Fernwald Complex** near the main campus and at **University Village** in nearby Albany. More than 800 units of family housing are available for student families (undergraduate and graduate), from one-bedroom/one-bath to three-bedroom/two-bath units. As of August 2008, monthly rents range from \$899 to \$1,823 including all utilities. Since wait-lists are common, please register your interest as early as possible, even before arriving on campus.

Phone: (510) 642-4109
<http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/livingatcal/studentsfamilies.html>

Child Care

Reimbursement Program for Academic Student Employees (ASEs)

Effective July 1, 2008, students who are employed at least 25 percent as a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI), Reader, Tutor, or Acting Instructor-Graduate Student, with a qualified dependent child, are eligible for reimbursement up to \$450 per semester for qualified child care expenses. The child care provider must be a licensed child care provider with a valid tax ID. The reimbursement is subject to federal and state tax, and will be included in income calculations for needs-based grants.

More information is available online (http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/collective_bargaining_units/academicstudentemployees_bx/contract_articles/art_04.pdf).

Early Childhood Education Program

The Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) offers space for about 135 children (ages 3 months to 7 years) of student parents. Fees, from zero to full fee, are on a sliding scale set by the State Department of Education and are assessed based on family size and gross monthly income. Enrollment is limited and cannot be guaranteed. Since wait-lists are common, please register your interest as early as possible.

2610 Channing Way
Phone: (510) 642-1827
<http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/child>

The **Albany Children's Center** at University Village offers child care programs for about 375 children, ages three to seven years old, whose parents are Village residents. Some programs offer extended hours (7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Phone: (510) 559-6590

The **Family Resource Center** at University Village offers limited evening and weekend child care to provide study time for parents, particularly during midterms and finals.

Phone: (510) 528-4784

QUESTIONS?

The Graduate Division is here to help. After consulting your Adviser and department's Graduate Student Affairs Officer, as well as the resources indicated here, if you have more questions or need assistance, please feel welcome to contact the Graduate Division Dean's Office at (510) 642-5472 for advice or referral.

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