FAQ for Students with Children

What types of health insurance are available to my family and me?

Vanderbilt University is committed to promoting good health and meeting the medical needs of our students. The Vanderbilt Student Insurance Plan does in fact cover pre-natal care, and family members are eligible for your student insurance plan at additional costs. **Dependents are not automatically enrolled; it is the insured student’s responsibility to enroll eligible dependents each year.** Dependents are not automatically re-enrolled. It is important to note that students who have Vanderbilt insurance and wish to obtain pre-natal services must first schedule an appointment with Student Health in order to obtain a referral for services. To schedule an appointment, simply call 322-2427.

**I am / my partner is expecting. What are parental leave options?**

Parental Leave is not a University-wide policy and is decided upon by individual schools. For a comprehensive list of leave policies please visit the [Women’s Center website](#).

It is important to note that taking a leave of absence (in the case that your school does not have a parental leave policy) may impact your insurance. Please contact a representative of [The Vanderbilt Insurance Plan](#) so that you can make arrangements for continued coverage.

What are childcare options available at Vanderbilt and in the Nashville area?

[The Vanderbilt Child and Family Center](#) offers quality early childhood education and care for the children of Vanderbilt faculty, staff, and students. The program serves children age infants (6 weeks) to five years old. The Centers are licensed by the Tennessee Department of Education. The four locations are Belcourt Avenue, Edgehill Avenue, 18th Avenue, and Patterson Street.

In addition, a list of [alternate childcare facilities](#) can be found on the Vanderbilt Health and Wellness website. We encourage students to seek out childcare early on as wait lists are common both at Vanderbilt and in the Nashville community.

In addition, the [Department of Human Services](#) regulates childcare services throughout Metro Nashville and maintains an interactive search engine for finding childcare options in the area.

**How do I meet other student parents?**

The Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center supports students with children by connecting them with relevant social, academic and childcare resources during their time at Vanderbilt. In addition, the Women’s Center leads initiatives on behalf of students with children across the university and works to ensure the needs of each student-parent are
met. We recommend bookmarking our website and checking the calendar for the most up-to-date events.

Through our office, we hope to help make Vanderbilt University a great place for you and your family. In partnership with the Graduate Student Council and The International Student and Scholar Services, the Women’s Center hosts monthly programs specifically for students with children; past meet-ups have included everything from bringing in a local theatre company to family-friendly picnics.

I plan on breastfeeding. Where can I nurse/pump on campus?

The Women’s Center has launched a Breastfeeding Welcomed Here campaign in an effort to highlight departments, offices, and individual staff members who welcome and support breastfeeding moms. This is part of a campus-wide initiative to make Vanderbilt a family-friendly institution. To find a space to nurse or pump near you, please visit our interactive Google map, located on our website.

What are some additional resources at Vanderbilt?

- The Vanderbilt Office of International Student and Scholar Services specialize in the unique needs of international families.
- The Psychological and Counseling Center provides couples, family and child therapy for Vanderbilt students and their families.
- Baby’s Best Start is a resource provided by Human Resources for benefits-eligible faculty and staff at Vanderbilt but is also a useful “tool kit” for all of our community.

What are some additional resources in Nashville?

Nashville Parent Magazine: Nashville Parent, the award-winning Middle Tennessee parenting resource, has been in Nashville for more than a decade. Check out this website for fun activities in the Nashville community.

Pregnant and Parenting Student’s Rights: The National Law Center created this website to inform pregnant and parenting students of their rights as outlined by the Title IX Act.

For more information, to sign up for our students with children listserv, or if you have questions, please feel free to contact the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center at 615-322-4843, visit us at 316 West Side Row, or e-mail Katie Garcia at katie.garcia@vanderbilt.edu.