

# Guideline for bringing children into the learning environment

The University is committed to supporting the success of its students, faculty, and staff, through maintaining an accessible and safe learning environment that is conducive to student engagement and learning. Acknowledging that students who are also parents can experience extenuating circumstances that could disrupt the routine of having regular childcare, the following document provides guidelines that department chairs, program directors, and classroom instructors may consider if a student requests to bring their child to the classroom.

1. The University is committed to providing a learning environment that is as conducive to learning as possible and depends on the discretion of its classroom instructors to determine how to best manage the classroom environment.
2. The expectation on all students is that they will enter the classroom environment ready to engage and learn without unnecessary distractions and disruptions. For students who are also parents, this includes the expectation that the student has arranged for adequate and consistent childcare, to allow the student to attend class without their child.
3. Where extenuating circumstances disrupt consistent childcare, a student may seek approval from the classroom instructor to bring a child into the classroom. Approval is at the discretion of the classroom instructor, with consideration of:
  - a. The nature of the extenuating circumstances (e.g. is the circumstance a one-off instance?);
  - b. The age and maturity of the child;
  - c. The nature of the classroom environment (e.g. Does the course address mature or adult themes?); and safety considerations (e.g. Theatre Arts spaces).
  - d. Whether any potential disruption caused by the presence of the child can be mitigated (e.g. asking the student parent to sit near an exit in case they need to leave the classroom).
4. If permission to bring the child into the classroom is obtained, the child must remain in direct supervision of the student and the student may be asked to leave the classroom at any time in the event of a disruption to the learning environment.

5. Since students are responsible for the behavior of any accompanying minor children on campus (as per the Protection of Minors on Campus Policy), they may be subject to disciplinary actions for any disruptive or destructive behavior by the children.
6. Children will not be permitted in any University facilities that involves the use of hazardous materials or items that could be considered dangerous in any way to children or require increased safety precautions (e.g. in laboratories).

For further information, please contact the Office of Human Rights, Diversity, and Equity at [humanrights@macewan.ca](mailto:humanrights@macewan.ca)

**Dated:** 19.09.24