

## **MDCC Dental Hygiene Technology Pregnancy Policy**

Students who become pregnant or suspect pregnancy are encouraged to notify the Program Director immediately! Notification must be made in writing. A student also has the right to not declare her pregnancy, in which case, the student will be treated as though she were not pregnant. Once a student has declared her pregnancy, the student also has the right to undeclare her pregnancy at any time. This is in accordance with Federal and State laws. Confidentiality is assured if necessary.

Students who have declared the pregnancy will receive counseling concerning continuation of studies during pregnancy. Pregnancy is not grounds for dismissal, but radiation exposure must be limited during this time. Radiation overdose in the first trimester has been known to cause birth defects and health problems. This is of utmost importance to the health of the unborn child. The radiation dose to the expectant mother (and fetus) must not exceed 0.5 rem during the entire period of gestation.

Below are the recommendations concerning the student's progression in the DHT program:

The student must be able to continue to meet attendance and program requirements.

A pregnant student must have physician approval to continue in the dental hygiene program. In the event of physician disapproval, pregnant students who refuse to withdraw from the program must acknowledge in writing having received counseling and assume all risk for possible damage to the unborn fetus.

Students in the first semester of the first year of the program may withdraw from the program. They may return at a later date as determined by the student and Program Director.

Students in the second year of the program will be given the option of withdrawing and starting over after the baby is born in the semester in which they withdrew provided that space is available and the student had a passing grade of 75% or better in all dental hygiene courses prior to withdrawal. If the student is not able to re-enter the program at the next available entry point (one year), then she must make application and repeat all dental hygiene courses.