



## **Faculty Handbook**   **C215 Parental Leave**

Approved By: Faculty Senate and UNM President

Effective: November 29, 2011   **Revised Draft 9/18/25**

Responsible Faculty Committee: Faculty Senate Policy Committee

Office Responsible for Administration: Provost and Executive Vice President for Health Sciences (EVPHS)

**Legend for highlights:** Text from current policy shown in black; recommended changes are shown in red, underlined. Proposed deletions are shown in ~~strikeouts~~. Green -notes where this language is located in current policy.

Revisions to the Applicability, Policy Rationale, and Policy Statement sections of this document must be approved by the Faculty Senate and the UNM President.

### APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to all academic University of New Mexico (UNM) units, including the Health Sciences Center and Branch Community Colleges. Agreements reached by collective bargaining will hold precedence over any element of this Policy for faculty members covered by the agreement. In areas where there are differences, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) will hold precedence; however, parts of this Policy not covered by the CBA apply to all eligible faculty.

### POLICY RATIONALE

C215, 1 ~~The University of New Mexico~~ UNM supports faculty in balancing their academic and personal lives. UNM strives to help faculty coordinate the needs and timing of an academic career and ~~balancing the~~ balance sometimes-competing priorities of their academic and personal priorities lives. UNM is committed to creating an environment that supports faculty ~~when the~~ with new parenthood responsibilities of family life are particularly demanding by allowing faculty to take by providing paid time away from work. ~~for caring for and bonding with children.~~

### POLICY STATEMENT

C215, 1, last sentence This Policy provides one (1) semester of parental leave with full pay for a primary or co-equal care-giving faculty parent as defined within this Policy. C215, 1.3 Parental leave is not intended to take the place of medical leave for a birthing parent, but is granted in addition to any medically required leave. C215, 2.4 Faculty members may also take unpaid FMLA ~~to arrange~~ for additional relief. For more information on FMLA refer to **UAP Policy 3440** "Family and Medical Leave."

## 1. **Parental Leave** Relief

C215, 2.3 (1<sup>st</sup> paragraph) This Policy provides full relief from teaching duties and similar responsibilities. When research and advising are part of the duties, it is normally expected that these activities will continue during parental leave, but not during any period of medically required leave. Given the varied nature of academic responsibilities across UNM, it is the prerogative of each dean to establish guidelines for relief under this Policy. Due to the unique nature of faculty responsibilities that include providing patient care, the Health Sciences Center (HSC) will define the extent of relief provided to HSC faculty requesting parental leave.

The purpose of parental leave is to C215, 2.1, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence spend this time caring for and bonding with a child who has recently joined the household. All paid parental leave received by a faculty member under this Policy will count toward the faculty member's Family Medical Leave (FML) entitlement, if the employee is eligible for FML (Refer to UAP Policy 3440). When parental leave runs concurrently with FML it will provide full relief from all academic duties and responsibilities. If the faculty member has exhausted their FML, the faculty member may still take parental leave, but the chair may request research and advising duties to continue during parental leave in accordance with approved college or school procedures/guidelines.

Extraordinary circumstances such as multiple births/adoptions or events involving special-needs children may necessitate additional leave and/or flexibility and shall be referred to the Provost/EVPHS, or their designees, for a determination of other options. Refer to Policy C280 "Leave Without Pay."

## 2. Eligibility

C215, 2.1 All regular contract faculty at .50 FTE or higher who Faculty with professorial appointments, continuing non-tenure appointments, and renewable research appointments, are eligible for parental leave if they have been employed at UNM at least one (1) semester at 0.5 FTE or higher. The specific faculty titles in each of these appointment categories is listed on the Office for Academic Personnel website (oap.unm.edu/faculty/faculty-appointments) in accordance with Section B of the Faculty Handbook. C215, 2.1 If both parents are faculty members, each is eligible for parental leave and will be reimbursed at their full salary whether taken consecutively or concurrently. C215, 2.1 ~~If only one parent takes leave, that parent will be reimbursed at full pay during the leave. If both parents wish to take leave, whether consecutively or concurrently, they will each be reimbursed at one-half of their usual salary.~~

C215, 2.1 If both faculty members are in the same department, the faculty members and the chair will discuss how best to meet the needs of the department and the family including whether to take the leave concurrently or consecutively (preferable). In cases of disagreement, the dean will make the final decision, which can be appealed in accordance with Section 4 below. C215, 2.1 Parents giving birth, spouses or domestic partners of parents giving birth, parents adopting, and parents accepting a long-term foster placement or fostering toward adoption, are all eligible for equal amounts of parental leave under this policy.

## 3. Eligible Events

C215, 2.2 Parental leave should normally begin within one (1) calendar year after a child is born or an adopted or foster child joins the household. Exceptions to the one-year time frame will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Procedures Section 6. herein.

## 4. Appeals

**C215, 3.2** If a faculty member and the dean or department chair cannot reach agreement on a parental leave plan for relief, the faculty member may appeal the dean's decision to the Provost or EVPHS for a final decision.

Revisions to the remaining sections of this document may be amended with the approval of the Faculty Senate Policy and Operations Committees.

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## PROCEDURES

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### 1. Role of Academic Leadership

**C215, 1.1** Academic leaders and supervisors ~~will attempt to~~ foster an environment in which every eligible faculty member ~~will be~~ is encouraged to ~~consider freely~~ take the parental leave opportunity offered through this Policy. Deans, department chairs, and program directors should make every effort to promote use of parental leave ~~this Policy~~. Individuals participating in reappointment, tenure, and promotion reviews shall not allow use of parental leave or family-related tenure-clock extensions to have a negative influence in the evaluation of any candidate.

### 2. Ethical Use

**C215, 1.2** This Policy shall be promulgated, used, and applied within the intent and principles of the Policy and with the high ethical standards expected in all areas of academic endeavor and leadership.

~~The parent/s taking leave must also realize this~~ This benefit is a revocable benefit under certain circumstances. ~~The~~ Parental leave may not be used for outside work, whether part-time or full-time, for pay. The parent taking leave must also agree ~~that they will~~ to return to work at UNM at the conclusion of parental ~~after leave has been taken~~ for a minimum of time equal to leave time taken.

### 3. Parental Leave Relief

**C215, 2.3 (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)** The faculty member should discuss the need for parental leave with the dean or department chair well in advance of the leave and when possible, in time to make ~~for any~~ alternative teaching, patient care, and other academic arrangements. ~~to be made~~. The faculty member and the dean or department chair will work together to develop a plan for parental leave that meets both the needs of the faculty member and the needs of UNM. They shall work together to minimize the impact of leave on students, grantors, patients, and other beneficiaries of the academic program.

### 4. Tenure Clock

**C215, 2.5** The ~~running of the~~ probationary period will be suspended, unless otherwise requested in writing, when a faculty member is on parental leave. If the research of a probationary faculty member is substantively impacted by an individual taking parental leave, the probationary

faculty member may request an extension of their probationary period to their dean.  
Subsequent mid-probationary and tenure reviews will be pushed back one (1) full year. ~~later.~~  
Deans, department chairs, and program directors should help faculty members to make informed decisions about suspending the probationary period.

## 5. Sabbatical or Academic Leave

C215, 2.6 Parental leave time will count towards time worked to earn a sabbatical or academic leave.

## 6. Extraordinary Circumstances

C215, section 3 Extraordinary circumstances such as multiple births/adoptions or events involving special-needs children may necessitate additional parental leave and/or flexibility, and shall be referred to the Provost or ~~Executive Vice President for Health Sciences~~ EVPHS for a determination. These situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine how best to meet the ~~additional~~ needs of the faculty member and UNM. These decisions will be applied consistently across the University UNM to ensure equitable treatment.

## 7. Program Review and Evaluation

C215, section 4 The Provost's Office and HSC Office of Academic Affairs will review this parental leave program biennially to ensure that it is applied equitably and consistently across UNM. ~~within the intent of the Policy. This Review~~s will also analyze the program's impact on UNM's mission and faculty recruitment, retention, and satisfaction. ~~in relation to associated costs.~~

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## DEFINITIONS

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**Semester.** For units that do not use the term "semester," semester shall mean a period of 120 calendar days for 9-month faculty and 180 days for 12-month faculty.

**Full Salary.** This refers to the faculty member's guaranteed salary amount. It does not include:

- non-standard payments (see UAP Policy 2615),
- special administrative components (see Faculty Handbook Policy C180), or
- summer research or teaching (see Faculty Handbook Policy C120).

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## WHO SHOULD READ THIS POLICY

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- Board of Regents
- Faculty and academic staff
- Academic deans and other executives, department chairs, directors, and managers

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## RELATED DOCUMENTS

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Faculty Handbook  
C120 "Summer Session Teaching"

**C180 “Special Administrative Component”**

**C210 “Sick Leave”**

*University Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual*

**Policy 2615 “Non-Standard Payment Processing**

**Policy 3415 “Leave with Pay”**

**Policy 3440 “Family and Medical Leave.”**

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## CONTACTS

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Direct any questions about this Policy to your chair or dean.

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## DRAFT HISTORY

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September 18, 2025—revised to remove postdoctoral fellows from the proposed revision that went out for comment and review—the Policy Committee was informed postdoctoral fellows will be covered in another UNM policy. Approved at 9/3/25 FS Policy Committee to go to the Faculty Senate approval before going to the President for final approval.

May 16, 2025 –revised to address campus comments

November 11, 2024 – revised draft to address comments during 2<sup>nd</sup> comment period.

July 19, 2024 –revised draft to address comments.

March 7, 2024 –revised approved by Policy Committee to go out for review and comment.

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## HISTORY

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November 29, 2011 Approved by UNM President

November 23, 2010 Approved by Faculty Senate.