

## 26.99.01 Student Health Insurance

July 31, 1996  
Revised March 7, 1997  
Revised October 26, 1998  
Revised April 29, 2009  
Next Scheduled Review: April 29, 2011



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### Regulation Statement

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This regulation provides guidance for the administration of the student insurance program.

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### Reason for Regulation

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This regulation exists to ensure that a student health insurance plan approved by The Texas A&M University System (system) is made available to all students and to ensure that all international students are covered either through one of these plans or an alternative equivalent plan.

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### Procedures and Responsibilities

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#### 1. GENERAL

A group health insurance plan will be offered to students at each system member university and the health science center (academic institutions) to supplement the health services that may be provided by the academic institutions under the group hospital and medical services fee. The plan will include optional coverage for students' dependents. Plans are to be written using an all-hazards approach; response activities to specific situations may be included as appendices.

#### 2. ADMINISTRATION

##### 2.1 General Program Administration

Overall responsibility for development and administration of the System Student Health Insurance Plan (SSHIP) is assigned to Texas A&M University (Texas A&M). Responsibility is currently assigned to Texas A&M's vice president for student affairs (VPSA). The Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee, consisting of staff members appointed by the VPSA and students appointed by Texas A&M's student body president, coordinates activities with student insurance representatives for all system academic institutions. The role of the advisory committee is to advise the VPSA concerning all aspects of coverages, providers, premiums and general

administration of the plan. With such collaboration and advice from the advisory committee, the VPSA or designee will:

- (a) develop specifications, solicit and evaluate proposals, and recommend selection of plans and carriers subject to approval by the advisory committee;
- (b) recommend approval of the contract with the insurance carrier, including arrangements for the payment of premiums;
- (c) arrange with the carrier for the production and distribution of materials describing the plan; and
- (d) work with the carrier on problems that may develop in the general administration of the program.

## 2.2 Administration at System Member Academic Institutions

The president of each system member academic institution shall assign responsibility for the following functions for that academic institution:

- (a) publicize the availability of the SSHIP to students, including the terms of the plan, coverages available, premiums, options, etc.; and
- (b) assist students, when requested, to resolve with the insurance carrier questions related to the payment of claims.

2.3 The SSHIP contract is subject to approval by the chancellor or designee.

## 3. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All international students (students who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States) are required to be covered under the SSHIP or have equivalent insurance coverage as described below. This includes such persons who are attending intensive English language programs. The system member chief executive officer (CEO) or designee is authorized to establish appropriate procedures to ensure compliance with the mandatory health insurance requirements and to assess appropriate penalties when necessary.

- 3.1 International students who are not employed in graduate assistant positions entitling them to coverage under the system employee group health insurance program must be enrolled in SSHIP. This requirement will be waived for international students who can produce evidence that they hold equivalent insurance coverage from other sources or international students whose government or agency sponsor requires a special type of coverage. Equivalent coverage can be loosely described as coverage similar to the SSHIP or other nationally recognized programs. However, there may still be federal regulations governing specific visa types that must be met.
- 3.2 International students who are employed in graduate assistant positions are entitled to employee group coverage. If they enroll under the system employee group health insurance program, they are not required to enroll in SSHIP. Those enrolling in the graduate student plan option will have coverage for medical evacuation and repatriation under that plan. Those who choose an alternate employee group plan are required to enroll in a stand-alone policy option under the SSHIP that provides medical evacuation

and repatriation coverage, or they must produce evidence that they hold equivalent coverage from other sources.

- 3.3 International students are required to provide proof of coverage, via the designated procedures, for each semester in which they are enrolled. Those who are not covered under SSHIP by virtue of the waiver provisions described above shall notify the system member CEO or designee of any lapse in alternative coverage.

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## **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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[22 C.F.R. Part 62 – Exchange Visitors](#)

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## **Contact Office**

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