Introduction

This Summary Plan Description (SPD) provides important information about the health & welfare and educational assistance benefits that Northwestern University sponsors for eligible employees, retirees and family members. This information includes:

- **Eligibility, Enrollment & Contributions** – presenting eligibility guidelines for employees, retirees and family members, enrollment information (including when coverage begins and ends) and contributions information (while some health & welfare benefits are automatic with their costs paid entirely by the University, others are optional with the employee and the University either sharing their cost or the employee paying their full cost). For more information, see Section 1: Eligibility, Enrollment & Contributions.
- **Health, Dental & Vision Plans** – providing eligible employees the opportunity to choose health, dental and vision coverage from among a variety of options so each employee may choose a personalized package of health care benefits based on their needs and preferences. This section also includes state and federal notices regarding your health benefits. For more information, see Section 2: Health, Dental & Vision Plans.
- **Spending & Savings Accounts** – providing a number of tax-favored accounts eligible employees may use to pay eligible health and dependent care expenses. For more information, see Section 3: Spending & Savings Accounts.
- **Disability Benefits** – providing income continuation benefits in the event an employee becomes disabled – due to illness or injury – and is unable to work. For more information, see Section 4: Disability Benefits.
- **Life & Other Insurance Plans** – providing basic life insurance and business travel insurance coverage for eligible employees and the opportunity to choose supplemental life insurance coverage for themselves and their eligible family members, as well as optional long-term care insurance. For more information, see Section 5: Life & Other Insurance Plans.
- **Educational Assistance** – providing different types of tuition benefits for eligible employees, retirees and family members. For more information, see Section 6: Educational Assistance.
- **Other Information** – including an overview of claims and appeals procedures, administrative information and a statement of a plan participant’s rights, as provided under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). For more information, see Section 7: Other Information.

This summary is for informational purposes and is not intended as an offer of employment or to establish the terms and conditions of employment in any way. While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this summary, it is only a summary of the key provisions of these plans. If there is a conflict between the legal plan documents and this summary, the legal plan documents will control. If you have any questions about this summary, call the Benefits Division at 847-491-7513.
Contents

1 Eligibility, Enrollment & Contributions .....1.1  
Eligibility ......................................................................................................................... 1.1
Enrollment ......................................................................................................................... 1.5
Contributions .................................................................................................................... 1.7

2 Health, Dental & Vision Plans ................. 2.1  
Health Plans .................................................................................................................... 2.2
Dental Care ....................................................................................................................... 2.21
Vision Care ....................................................................................................................... 2.30
State & Federal Notices ................................................................................................. 2.35

3 Spending & Savings Accounts ................. 3.1  
Flexible Spending Accounts ....................................................................................... 3.2
Health Savings Account ............................................................................................... 3.9

4 Disability Benefits ................................ 4.1  
Long Term Disability ..................................................................................................... 4.2

5 Life & Other Insurance Plans ................. 5.1  
Life Insurance ............................................................................................................... 5.2
Business Travel Insurance .......................................................................................... 5.12

6 Educational Assistance ......................... 6.1  
Employee Reduced Tuition Plan .................................................................................. 6.2
Employee Portable Tuition Plan ................................................................................... 6.6
Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan ....................................................................... 6.8
Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan .................................................................................. 6.10
Dependent Portable Tuition Plan .................................................................................... 6.14

7 Other Information .................................. 7.1  
Important Terms ........................................................................................................... 7.2
Claims & Appeals ........................................................................................................... 7.10
Coordination of Benefits and Right of Reimbursement .............................................. 7.29
Administrative Information ............................................................................................... 7.31
Your ERISA Rights ......................................................................................................... 7.36
1 Eligibility, Enrollment & Contributions

Starting in this section – and throughout the rest of this handbook – “you” and “your” are used to refer to an employee who is in a benefits-eligible employee classification. As outlined in this section, eligibility guidelines may vary from plan-to-plan. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility for a particular plan refer to this section or call the Benefits Division at 847-491-7513.

Eligibility

Employees
You are eligible to participate in Northwestern University's health & welfare plans if:

- You are employed by the University in a benefits-eligible employee classification and meet the applicable eligibility guidelines (see table on page 1.2), and
- You receive Northwestern University compensation paid through the University’s payroll system sufficient to cover the amount of your premium deductions.

Note: If you go on a leave of absence, become disabled or retire from University employment – or if your University employment is terminated – your coverage may continue. For details, see the separate plan descriptions in this handbook.

Unless otherwise noted, you are NOT eligible to participate in University-sponsored health, dental and vision plans, spending and savings accounts, disability benefits, life and other insurance coverage and educational assistance benefits if you are:

- **Contributed Service Faculty** – a Medical School Faculty member who has volunteered to participate in the academic activities of the Medical School without direct financial compensation. **Note:** Contributed Service Faculty are eligible to participate in the Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan (for details, see Section 6: Educational Assistance).

- **Department of Education Post-Doctoral Fellow** – a fellow whose position is funded by the Department of Education. **Note:** Department of Education Post-Doctoral Fellows are eligible for a separate benefit program through Garnett-Powers & Associates.

- **ROTC Faculty** – an employee who serves as full-time faculty for ROTC and NROTC programs on campus. **Note:** ROTC Faculty ARE eligible to participate in University-sponsored educational assistance benefits based on their University service (for details, see Section 6: Educational Assistance).

- **A Pre-Doctoral Fellow** – an individual pursuing a PhD may be able to purchase a general health insurance policy available through the Office of Risk Management.

- **An NRSA Post-Doctoral Fellow** – a fellow whose position is funded by a National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). **Note:** NRSA Post-Doctoral Fellows are eligible for a separate benefit program through Garnett-Powers & Associates.

- **A Visiting Scholar** – unless self-funded, in which case a Visiting Scholar may be able to obtain benefits through the Office of Risk Management.

- **Visiting Personnel** – without an academic appointment (including Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellows) may be able to purchase a general health insurance policy available through the Office of Risk Management.
**Employee Classifications & General Eligibility Guidelines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You are in this employee classification:</th>
<th>If you are:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff (Non-Exempt or Exempt)</strong></td>
<td>Scheduled to work or retains an active status in the system:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• At least 18.75 hours per week (half-time) – for health, dental and vision plans, spending and savings accounts, disability benefits and all life and other insurance plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 37.5 hours per week (full-time) – for educational assistance benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Employee must hold an appointment that is full-time for at least six months or at least half-time for one year to be benefits-eligible. University salary must be sufficient to cover benefit plan deductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> Bargaining unit employee should refer to their union contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temporary Staff and Staff Working Less than 18.75 Hours per Week:</strong></td>
<td>Appointed to work:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Less than 18.75 hours per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• For less than 1,000 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours worked will be tracked and monitored. If the hours worked equal to or exceed 30 hours per week (130 hours per month) during the lookback period, minimum essential health coverage will be offered through the University’s ACA Value PPO plan in accordance with the Affordable Care Act guidelines, as summarized on page 2.35. Only health care and prescription coverage will be offered in these circumstances. Employees are not eligible for any other benefit plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Faculty</strong></td>
<td>Appointed to work:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• On a full-time or part-time (half-time or greater) basis for entire academic year or on a full-time basis for half the academic year (i.e., either one semester or two quarters) – for health, dental and vision plans, spending and savings accounts, disability benefits and all life and other insurance plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• On a full-time basis – for educational assistance benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> A Faculty member who enters into a Phased Retirement Agreement will continue to be eligible for health care coverage, subject to the same full-time premium rates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjunct Faculty</strong></td>
<td>Adjunct faculty members typically hold a primary, continuing position at another university or at an external organization. They do not have the full range of faculty responsibilities; their focus is either on teaching or research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appointed to work:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Less than 50% for the academic year or be less than 100% for half of the academic year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Less than 3 years but may be renewed repeatedly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours worked will be tracked and monitored using the IRS provided formula. If the hours worked equal to or exceed 30 hours per week (130 hours per month) during the lookback period, minimum essential health coverage will be offered through the University’s ACA Value PPO plan in accordance with the Affordable Care Act guidelines, as summarized on page 2.35. Only health care and prescription coverage will be offered in these circumstances. Employees are not eligible for any other benefit plans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Continued…*
### Employee Classifications & General Eligibility Guidelines (cont’d.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You are in this employee classification:</th>
<th>If you are:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Academic Full-Time and Half-Time Faculty | Compensated exclusively by one or more of the following affiliated McGaw Medical Center Institutions, including the University, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation (NMFF), Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and its related faculty practice plans, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and the VA Lakeside Medical Center.  
**Note:** NMFF income does not qualify to cover the amount of monthly premium deductions. An individual’s University salary must be sufficient to cover deductions. To participate in a University-sponsored life insurance plan an Academic Full-Time and Half-Time Faculty member must be receiving a minimum of $1,000 in annual pay from the University. |
| Post-Doctoral Fellow | Appointed to work:  
- On at least a half-time basis – for health, dental and vision plans, spending and savings accounts, disability benefits and all life and other insurance plans  
- On a full-time basis – for educational assistance benefits  
- Employee must hold an appointment that is full-time (two quarters or one semester) for half the academic year or at least half-time for the entire academic year to be benefits-eligible. University salary must be sufficient to cover benefit plan deductions |
| Visiting Personnel | Appointed to the rank of professor, associate professor or assistant professor:  
- On at least a half-time basis – for health, dental and vision plans, spending and savings accounts, disability benefits and all life and other insurance plans  
- On a full-time basis – for educational assistance benefits. |
| Disabled Employee | An employee who has become permanently and totally disabled while working for the University and is receiving University-sponsored Extended Sick Time or Long Term Disability benefits. **Note:** You will not be able to make contributions to a Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) while receiving Extended Sick Time or Long Term Disability benefits. You will not be able to make contributions to a healthcare FSA while on Long Term Disability. |
| Reduced Work Calendar Staff | Employed in a department whose work schedule is less than the standard 26.1 pay periods per year. **Note:** You will continue to pay the full-time premium rates. |

**Notes:**
- Both full-time and part-time Staff and Faculty are eligible for automatic Business Travel Insurance unless working on a temporary or seasonal basis.  
- The University’s Dependent Care FSA matching contribution is available ONLY to full-time Staff and/or Faculty.

### Family Members

Family members you may include under your University-sponsored health, dental, vision and life insurance coverage – and who are eligible to receive certain educational assistance benefits – are:

- **Your spouse** – the person to whom you are legally married
- **Your partner** – a person with whom you have entered into a legally recognized civil union
- **Your children until they reach age 26** – regardless of student or marital status or residence – including:
  - Natural, step or legally adopted children
  - Foster children for whom you and/or your spouse or partner is legal guardian, and
  - Children for whom you are required to provide coverage under the terms of a Qualified Medical Child Support Order.

Coverage may continue beyond age 25 for a child who is dependent upon you for financial support and maintenance because of disability if the disability begins – and the child is
covered – before reaching age 26. **Note:** Satisfactory proof of continued disability must be submitted to the insurer upon request.

The University requires **eligibility verification** to confirm the eligibility of any family member you enroll in health insurance coverage.

Parents, grandparents and in-laws of you and/or your spouse or partner are not eligible for coverage. Typically, grandchildren are not eligible for coverage but may be covered as family members if you and/or your spouse or partner has legal guardianship.

No individual may be covered both as an employee and as a spouse, partner or child under the University’s benefit plans.
Enrollment

Enrolling for Coverage
You must complete your initial enrollment process within 31 days from your date of hire or the date you first become eligible. If you do not enroll or waive coverage within this 31-day period, your coverage will be waived automatically and your next opportunity to enroll will be during the next annual Open Enrollment.

During Open Enrollment, you will have an opportunity each year to enroll in or waive coverage for yourself and to add or drop coverage for your eligible family members, including your spouse or partner and/or your eligible child(ren). You will receive information and instructions for completing the annual Open Enrollment process during the Fall each year.

If you experience a qualifying change in family or employment status, you may elect to add or drop eligible family members and/or add or drop coverage within 31 days following the date on which the change in status occurs.

For more information about your enrollment options when you experience a change in status – including instructions for making any changes to your coverage – see Benefit Changes. Note: When a change in status occurs you will be able to add or drop coverage, but you will not be able to change coverage from one plan to another. For example, if currently enrolled in the Select PPO health plan you will be able to drop that coverage, but you will not be able to change coverage to the HMO Illinois health plan.

When enrolling a family member for health coverage for the first time, you must submit acceptable documentation to verify the family member’s eligibility. If you do not provide acceptable documentation within 31 days, the family member’s health insurance coverage will not take effect and the family member will be dropped from any University-sponsored health, dental, vision and life insurance coverage in which they were enrolled.

Dropping Coverage
You may elect to drop health, dental, vision, and/or any optional term life insurance coverage you may have elected – and/or end contributions to a spending or savings account – during the annual Open Enrollment process or within 31 days following the date on which you experience a qualifying change in family or employment status.

When Coverage Begins
The date your coverage takes effect is based on when your enrollment (or enrollment change) occurs. If you:

- **Enroll during an initial enrollment period** – your coverage choices will take effect the first of the month following your date of hire or initial benefits eligibility, or your first day of employment if you start working on the first day of the month
- **Add or drop coverage during an annual Open Enrollment period** – your new coverage choices will take effect the next January 1st.
• **Add or drop coverage following a qualifying change in family or employment status** – your new coverage choices will take effect retroactive to the qualifying event. For details, see Benefit Changes.

**When Coverage Ends**

**Termination of Employment**

In general, coverage for you and your covered family members under University-sponsored benefit plans will end on the last day of the month in which termination of your University employment occurs. However, if you or an eligible family member is currently enrolled in a course under one of the University-sponsored educational assistance plans, coverage under the plan will continue until the end of the study term in which your termination occurs.

As provided under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), following termination of your University employment you may elect to temporarily continue your health, dental and vision plan coverage and continue to make contributions to a Health Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA). For more information about COBRA coverage continuation and instructions for enrolling in this coverage, see COBRA Benefits and Terminated Employees and COBRA.

In addition, you may convert or port your life insurance coverage to an individual policy. Information and instructions for converting or porting your life insurance coverage are available in Terminated Employees and COBRA.

**Retirement**

Your University-sponsored benefits coverage will end automatically at the end of the month in which you retire unless you are eligible and elect to continue your participation in certain benefits after you retire. For details, see Benefit Program Information for Retirees.

**Note:** If you return to University employment after you retire, you will remain in retiree benefits unless you return to the equivalent of a full-time appointment.

**Rehire**

If you terminate your University employment and are subsequently rehired into a University position:

• **Within 31 days from the date of termination** – your coverage in effect on your termination date will be reinstated.

• **More than 31 days from your date of termination** – you may enroll in coverage no later than 31 days from your rehire date.
Contributions

The amount you pay in premiums will be based on the following (see table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For coverage under…</th>
<th>Your premiums will be based on…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Health Plans         | • The health plan in which you choose to enroll  
                       • Your employment status – whether you’re full-time or part-time  
                       • The coverage tier you choose – You, You + Spouse/Partner, You + Child(ren) or You + Spouse/Partner + Child(ren), and  
                       • Your income as of September 1 of the prior calendar year |
| Dental Plans         | • The dental plan in which you choose to enroll  
                       • Your employment status – whether you’re full-time or part-time, and  
                       • The coverage tier you choose – You, You + Spouse/Partner, You + Child(ren) or You + Spouse/Partner + Child(ren) |
| Vision Plan          | • The coverage tier you choose – You, You + Spouse/Partner, You + Child(ren) or You + Spouse/Partner + Child(ren) |
| Long Term Disability | • Your age – as of December 31 in the current year, and  
                       • Your income |
| Supp. Term Life Ins. | • Your age – as of December 31 in the current year, and  
                       • The amount of Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage you elect |
| Spouse Term Life Ins.| • Your spouse’s age – as of December 31 in the current year, and  
                       • The amount of Spouse Term Life Insurance coverage you elect |
| Child Term Life Ins. | • The amount of Child Term Life Insurance coverage you elect |
| Long Term Care Ins.  | • Your age – as of the date your enrollment is initially approved, and  
                       • The daily maximum benefit coverage you elect |

For purposes of determining your life insurance coverage, annual base salary is the University salary you are receiving on an annual basis as of September 1 of the preceding year (or, if newly hired, your new hire salary). Your annual base salary does not include any bonus payments, honoraria, summer salary or overtime pay you may receive. Note: If you are paid on a bi-weekly basis, the benefits base amount is your bi-weekly scheduled hours multiplied by your hourly rate and multiplied by 26.1 (because there are 26.1 bi-weekly pay periods in a calendar year).

Basic Term Life Insurance and Business Travel Insurance are provided automatically and at no cost to you.

No premiums apply to your participation in a Health Care FSA, Limited Use FSA, Dependent Care FSA or Health Savings Account; you make contributions ONLY if you elect to participate in one or more of these accounts. No premiums apply to your participation in an educational assistance plan.
You are considered a:

- **Full-time employee** – if you are a Staff employee scheduled to work a minimum of 37.5 hours per week or a Faculty or Staff employee with a 100% appointment.
- **Part-time employee** – if you are a Staff employee scheduled to work at least 18.75 hours but less than 37.5 hours per week or a Faculty or Staff employee with a 50% or greater appointment.

**Premium Tax Status**

The premiums you pay toward the cost of your benefit coverage are deducted on a:

- **Pre-tax basis** – for any health, dental and vision coverage you elect, as well as any voluntary contributions you choose to make to a flexible spending account and/or Health Savings Account.
- **After-tax basis** – for any optional (buy-up) disability, life insurance or long term care insurance you elect, as well as premiums you pay for any coverage in which you may enroll your civil union partner.

---

**Pre-tax premiums** are deducted from your pay before your taxes are calculated, so they reduce your taxable income. **After-tax premiums** are deducted from your pay after your taxes are calculated, so they have no impact on your taxable income. **Note**, determination of whether premium deductions are pre-tax or after-tax will be done in accordance with state and federal regulations and will change as regulations change.

**Deduction Schedule**

If you are paid on a:

- **Bi-weekly basis** – your premium deductions are taken from the first and second payroll of each month.
- **Monthly basis** – your premium deductions are taken from the paycheck issued the last working day of each month.

Premiums pay for coverage in the month during which they are deducted (for example, premiums deducted in March pay for March coverage).

**Note**: If you complete the enrollment process after the normally scheduled paycheck date, retroactive premiums will be deducted from a future paycheck.

**Special Payment Situations**

For more information about special payment situations that may apply if you go on a leave of absence, become disabled or retire, see the separate plan descriptions within this handbook.
Health, Dental & Vision Plans

You have the following benefit options to choose from for health, dental and vision insurance for yourself and your eligible family members, including your spouse or partner and your child(ren).

Health Plans
You may choose health insurance under one of three types of plans:
- **PPO** – as provided under the Premier, Select or Value PPO coverage options, or
- **HMO** – as provided under the HMO Illinois coverage option, or
- **ACA Value PPO** – as provided under the ACA Value PPO coverage option for eligible temporary staff, adjunct faculty, and staff working less than 18.75 hours per week.

The opportunity to participate in a tax-favored Health Savings Account (HSA) is available ONLY to participants of the Value PPO coverage option; participants in the ACA Value PPO coverage option are NOT eligible to participate in an HSA.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) administers all medical coverage options and maintains the PPO and HMO provider networks available through these plans.

Dental Plans
You may choose dental insurance under one of two types of plans:
- **PPO** – as provided under the Dental PPO coverage option, or
- **HMO** – as provided under the Dental HMO coverage option.

Dearborn National administers the Dental PPO coverage option; First Commonwealth administers the Dental HMO coverage option. Both administrators maintain their own provider network.

Vision Plan
As a benefits-eligible employee, you may choose to participate in the EyeMed Vision Care Plan.

EyeMed administers this vision care option and offers its own provider network.

The options listed above are not available to employees on the Qatar campus; if you are an employee on the Qatar campus, you may choose coverage under the following three plans:
- **CIGNA International Health Plan.**
- **CIGNA International Dental Plan.**
- **CIGNA International Vision Plan.**

This section includes important information about State & Federal Notices that may affect coverage for you and your family members – and the benefits you receive – under the University’s health insurance plans.
Health Plans

Premier, Select, Value, or ACA Value PPO
The Premier, Select, Value, and ACA Value PPO plans offer a type of coverage known as “preferred provider organization,” or PPO. A PPO plan enables members to choose to receive care from any licensed doctor, hospital or facility, but will pay higher benefits for “in-network” services (that is, services performed by members of a “preferred” provider network – in this case, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) PPO provider network).

All four of these coverage options are self-insured plans which means they:
- Are funded by both employee and employer contributions deposited to a trust
- Pay claims and other expenses from the trust, and
- Are exempt from covering services mandated by state law.

Eligibility and benefit provisions for the PPO plans are established by the University and have no relationship to other BlueCross group (employer-sponsored) or individual plans in Illinois or in other states.

Note: The ACA Value PPO coverage option is available only to eligible temporary staff, adjunct faculty, and staff working less than 18.75 hours per week. Eligibility will be determined by the Benefits Department in accordance with the Affordable Care Act regulations. Those eligible will receive an offer letter from the Benefits Department.

Prescription drug benefits for PPO plan members are administered by Express Scripts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Savings Account (HSA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you elect coverage under the Value PPO health plan – the University’s “high-deductible PPO” – you may participate in a Health Savings Account (HSA). An HSA is designed to help you set aside tax-free dollars you can use to pay your share of qualified health care expenses today or save this money to pay your share of these expenses in the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Important!</strong> If you have a Health Savings Account, you cannot participate in a Health Care Flexible Spending Account, but you can participate in a Limited Use Flexible Spending Account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For details about this type of account and how it can work for you, see Health Savings Account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> The opportunity to participate in an HSA is NOT available to participants in the ACA Value PPO coverage option.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HMO Illinois
This plan offers coverage through a “Health Maintenance Organization,” or HMO. As an HMO, this plan pays benefits only for health care services received from a
network of physician and hospital providers and only for services approved in advance by your Primary Care Physician (PCP) – except in the case of an emergency.

If you enroll in this coverage option, you – and each eligible family member you include under your coverage – must choose a physician who is a member of the HMO provider network as your PCP. A list of the physicians who are members of the BCBSIL HMO provider network is available at bcbsil.com. Note: Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation (NMFF) physicians are NOT part of the HMO Illinois provider network.

Like most HMO plans, HMO Illinois is a fully insured plan. As a fully insured plan it:

- Is funded by both employee and employer contributions paid directly to it
- Pays plan expenses, and
- Must provide coverage mandated by state law.

Prescription drug benefits for HMO Illinois members are administered by Express Scripts.

**How PPO and HMO Coverage Differ**

While all five health plans assure financial protection against the cost of care in the event of a catastrophic illness or injury, they differ in three important ways:

- How much you pay in monthly premiums toward the cost of your coverage
- How much flexibility you have in choosing the physician and hospital providers you go to for health care services, and
- How much you pay out of pocket at the time you receive a health care service or the amount you will owe once a claim is processed.

If you choose a plan with lower monthly premiums, you will likely pay more in out of pocket costs – through copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, and the like – than you would if you choose a plan with higher monthly premiums. That’s why it’s important to carefully consider your personal situation – and the amount and type of expenses you will pay – before choosing your coverage. To help you evaluate your coverage options, use the online cost estimator at Health Care Decision Toolkit.

---

**For details about key plan features – including current-year deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, out-of-pocket expense limits and premiums – see the individual plan highlights and certificates of coverage at Health, Dental & Vision Plans. Also be sure to review the Northwestern Medicine tier and the differences in out-of-pocket expenses when seeing a Northwestern Medicine physician. For a side-by-side comparison of these features for the PPO and HMO plans, refer to the materials provided during annual Open Enrollment. For more information about premiums and what they’re based on, see Contributions in this handbook.**

---

**What You May Pay**

Whichever health plan you choose, you will pay a portion of the cost of any health care services you receive – either at the time the service is received or after a health
The amount you will pay under a PPO coverage option in deductibles and coinsurance during a year is subject to an annual out-of-pocket maximum.

Enhanced Benefits: The Northwestern Medicine Advantage
Employees and their dependents participating in our PPO health insurance coverage plans receive additional discounts on out-of-pocket expenses when utilizing Northwestern Medicine physicians.

These discounts are above and beyond the in-network rates. To search for a physician within Northwestern Medicine, go to www.nm.org and use the “Find a
Doctor” feature. You can apply a variety of filters so that you see providers that meet your search criteria. Under the insurance search filter, click on “BCBS PPO.”

Not all the physicians that practice at any of the participating Northwestern Medicine hospitals are in this enhanced benefit tier. It is best to cross reference the physician’s name against the physician directory provided to BCBS by Northwestern Memorial.

For access to that PDF list of physicians and to review the difference in coverage when utilizing the Northwestern Medicine tier, visit our webpage on Northwestern Medicine.

Express Scripts
Whether you elect coverage under a PPO or HMO plan, benefits toward the cost of prescription drugs are provided through Express Scripts.

The program covers most of the commonly prescribed medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The list of prescription drugs for which a plan provides benefits is called the formulary; certain medications may be included or excluded on a plan’s formulary. In general, this program does not provide benefits toward the cost of:

- Over the counter medications and other items
- Vitamins and other prenatal medications requiring a prescription
- Topical acne medications
- Weight loss medications
- Blood and blood products
- Cosmetic products, and
- Experimental or investigational medications.

To confirm whether or not a specific medication is included on your plan’s formulary, go to express-scripts.com.

Prescription Drug Benefits Under Premier or Select PPO or HMO Illinois
If you elect coverage under the Premier or Select PPO or HMO Illinois, the prescription drug program provides benefits based on a four-tier copayment structure:

- **Generic drugs (Tier 1)** – Drugs in this tier are identical (or bioequivalent) to a brand name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics and intended use. Although chemically identical to their brand name counterparts, generic drugs are typically sold at substantial discounts. To gain FDA approval, the manufacturer of a generic drug is subject to strict guidelines and standards.

- **Preferred brand name drugs (Tier 2)** – Drugs in this tier are patent-protected and trademarked.

- **Non-preferred brand name drugs (Tier 3)** – Drugs in this tier are typically newer or highly advertised medications, many of which have a brand or generic equivalent.

- **Specialty (Tier 4)** – Drugs in this tier require special handling, administration or monitoring. These drugs are used to treat complex, chronic and often costly
conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, hepatitis C, and hemophilia.

What you pay – and what the program pays – toward the cost of your prescription drugs differs based on whether you purchase the medication at a retail pharmacy or via mail order. In either case you pay a flat-dollar copayment, but:
- You pay a higher copayment for preferred brand name drugs than you do for generic drugs, and
- You pay the highest copayment for specialty drugs.

Your prescription drug expenses are subject to an annual “stop-loss” of $1,500 that limits the amount you may pay toward the cost of prescription drugs in any given year. This stop-loss feature applies separately to you and to each family member included under your coverage.

Note: While the copayment that applies to each tier for drugs purchased via mail order is twice the copayment that applies for drugs purchased at a retail pharmacy, it’s important to remember that you get a three-month (90-day) supply when you buy via mail order while you get just a one-month (30-day) supply when you buy at a retail pharmacy. Filling prescriptions for maintenance medications via mail order can save you money over time.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, generic drugs save consumers an estimated $8 to $10 billion a year at retail pharmacies alone...a number that doesn't include the cost-savings that accrue when generic drugs are used in a hospital.

Prescription Drug Benefits Under Value and ACA Value PPO plans
If you elect coverage under the Value or ACA Value PPO, you pay the full cost of prescription drugs for you and your covered family members until you meet the plan’s annual deductible. Once you do, you pay coinsurance toward the cost of each prescription until your share of covered expenses for the year reaches the plan’s out-of-pocket maximum. Once you do, the plan pays the full cost of prescription drugs for you and your family for the rest of the year.

Covered Services – Premier, Select, Value and ACA Value PPOs
The Premier, Select and Value PPO plans cover the following services. Additional information regarding covered services is available in the appropriate certificate of coverage at Health, Dental & Vision Plans.

Preventive and Wellness Care Services
All three PPO plans cover the full cost of preventive and wellness care services performed by an in-network provider.

Preventive care services that will not be subject to deductible, copayment, coinsurance or out-of-pocket maximum features of the plans include:
- Routine annual physicals
- Immunizations – for diphtheria, haemophilus influenza type b, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pertussis, polio, rubella, tetanus, varicella and other immunization(s) as may be required by law for children
- Well child(ren) care
- Cancer screenings – including screenings for prostate cancer and colorectal cancer
- Mammograms
- Women’s Preventive Care (including, but not limited to: well-woman visits, FDA-approved contraceptives for women, female sterilization, breast feeding support, supplies and counseling).
- Bone density tests
- Smoking cessation services
- Healthy diet counseling, and
- Obesity screenings and counseling.

**Medical Services Advisory Program**

If you elect PPO coverage, certain services will be subject to preadmission and length of service review by Blue Cross Blue Shield’s Office of the Medical Services Advisor (MSA). This program will help maximize the benefits you can receive through your PPO coverage.

MSA is staffed by trained registered nurses and consulting physicians who work under the supervision of a Medical Director.

**Important!** If you are Medicare-eligible and have secondary coverage under a PPO plan, this program does not apply to you.

**Preadmission Review.** You must contact MSA in the following situations:

- **Inpatient hospital preadmission** – at least one business day prior to admission
- **Emergency admission** – within two business days after admission (or as soon as reasonably possible)
- **Pregnancy/maternity admission** – within two business days after admission
- **Skilled nursing facility preadmission** – at least one business day prior to scheduling the admission
- **Coordinated home health care preadmission** – at least one business day prior to the scheduling of the admission
- **Private duty nursing service** – at least one business day prior to receiving services.

Upon notification, MSA will review the medical information provided and discuss the benefits available to you. The admitting physician may receive a recommendation from MSA to have care performed on an outpatient basis or, if surgery has been recommended by a physician, to obtain an additional surgical opinion. **Note:** While you may be asked by a hospital representative for a Blue Cross ID Card, this request is for registering the type of insurance (which will expedite submission of the hospital bill to Blue Cross for payment); you (or your spouse, partner or other individual) must still notify MSA – at **800-635-1928** – once it is determined that you will be admitted. (If
If you do not contact MSA – or do not comply with the MSA’s recommendations – the benefits you receive toward the cost of your inpatient services will be reduced. For example, if you do not contact MSA following an emergency admission, your benefits will be reduced by $500.

**Length of Stay Review.** Upon completing the preadmission or emergency review, the MSA will assign a length of stay for the proposed admission. An extension of this length of stay will be subject to review and approval based solely on whether the extension is medically necessary, as determined by the MSA.

Wellness care services that will not be subject to deductible, copayment, coinsurance or out-of-pocket maximum features of the plans include routine diagnostic medical procedures, EKG, x-ray, ovarian cancer screenings and colorectal cancer screening x-ray.

**Note:** While these services will be covered and eligible for benefits when performed by an “out-of-network” provider – that is, a doctor or hospital that is not a member of the plan’s specified provider network – the deductible, copayment, coinsurance and/or out-of-pocket maximum features of the plans will apply.

**Hospital Services – Inpatient Care**
- Bed, board and general nursing care – provided in a semi-private or private room or in an intensive care unit.
- Ancillary services – including (but not limited to) operating rooms, drugs, surgical dressings and lab work.
- Preadmission testing – preoperative tests performed on an outpatient basis.
- Partial hospitalization treatment – therapeutic treatment in a hospital for patients with mental illness.
- Coordinated home care.

**Hospital Services – Outpatient Care**
- Surgery and any related diagnostic services received on the same day as the surgery.
- Radiation therapy treatments.
- Chemotherapy.
- Electroconvulsive therapy.
- Renal dialysis treatments – if received in a hospital, a dialysis facility or in your home under the supervision of a hospital or dialysis facility.
- Diagnostic services – when you are an outpatient and these services are related to surgery or medical care.
- Emergency accident care – for treatment within 72 hours of the accident (or as soon as reasonably possible).
- Emergency medical care.
Physician Services

- Surgery.
- Anesthesia services – if administered at same time as covered surgical procedure.
- Assist at surgery – when performed by a physician, dentist or podiatrist.
- Sterilization procedures – even if elective.
- Additional surgical opinion – under PPO plans only.
- Medical care visits – physician’s office visit or if your physician comes to your home, or while an inpatient in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or abuse treatment facility or a patient in a partial hospitalization treatment program or coordinated home care program.
- Consultations – as requested by your doctor for another doctor’s advice in the diagnosis or treatment of a condition that requires special skill or knowledge.
- Diabetes self-management training and education.
- Diagnostic services.
- Emergency accident care – for treatment within 72 hours of the accident (or as soon as reasonably possible).
- Emergency medical care.
- Electroconvulsive therapy.
- Allergy injections and allergy testing.
- Chemotherapy.
- Occupational therapy.
- Physical therapy.
- Chiropractic and osteopathic manipulation.
- Speech therapy.
- Clinical breast examinations.
- Mammograms.
- Pap smear test.
- Human papillomavirus vaccine.
- Shingles vaccine.
- Prostate test and digital rectal examination.
- Ovarian cancer screening.
- Colorectal cancer screening.
- Bone mass measurement and osteoporosis.
- Amino acid-based elemental formulas.
- Outpatient contraceptive services.
- Leg, back, arm and neck braces.
- Prosthetic appliances.

Other Covered Services

- Blood and blood components.
- Private duty nursing services.
- Ambulance transportation.
- Dental accident care.
- Oxygen and its administration.
- Medical and surgical dressings, supplies, casts and splints.
- Naprapathic services.
Special Conditions and Payments
- Human organ transplant services.
- Cardiac rehabilitation services.
- Skilled nursing facility care:
  - Bed, board and general nursing care
  - Ancillary services – including (but not limited to) drugs, surgical dressings and supplies.
- Ambulatory surgical facility care.
- Substance abuse rehabilitation treatment.
- Mental illness services.
- Maternity services.
- Infertility treatment – see Illinois Infertility Mandate.
- Temporomandibular joint dysfunction and related disorders.
- Mastectomy-related services – as required under the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act.

Hospice Care
- Coordinated home care.
- Medical supplies and dressings.
- Medication.
- Nursing services – skilled and non-skilled.
- Occupational therapy.
- Pain management services.
- Physical therapy.
- Social and spiritual services.
- Respite care services.

Prescription Drugs
- Drugs that are self-administered and that require – by federal law – a written prescription.
- Self-injectable insulin and insulin syringes.
- Diabetic supplies – including test strips, glucagen emergency kits and lancets.

Additional terms and provisions that apply to covered services may affect whether a specific service is covered and/or the benefits you may receive toward the cost of that service. For details regarding your plan’s covered services, refer to the plan’s Benefits Booklet or Certificate of Coverage.

Blue365
Blue365 is a program sponsored by participating local Blue Companies that help you stay healthier for less. Blue365 offers discounts for members to save on products and services for a well-balanced lifestyle. When you are enrolled for coverage under one of the University sponsored PPO or HMO health plans, you can take advantage of discounts offered through Blue365. Some discounts include:
Dental, vision and hearing products and services
Fitness gear and apparel
Gym memberships
Family Activities
Healthy eating options

For details about how these programs work and how they can save you money, visit https://www.blue365deals.com/.

**Covered Services – HMO Illinois**
The HMO Illinois plan covers the following services. Additional information regarding covered services is available in the certificate of coverage at Health, Dental & Vision Plans.

**Preventive and Wellness Care Services**
The HMO plan covers the full cost of preventive and wellness care services performed by an in-network provider.

Preventive care services that will not be subject to deductible, copayment, coinsurance or out of pocket maximum features of the plans include:
- Routine annual physicals
- Immunizations – for diphtheria, haemophilus influenza type b, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pertussis, polio, rubella, tetanus, varicella and other immunization(s) as may be required by law for children
- Well child(ren) care
- Cancer screenings – including screenings for prostate cancer and colorectal cancer
- Mammograms
- Bone density tests
- Smoking cessation services
- Healthy diet counseling, and
- Obesity screenings and counseling.

Wellness care services that will not be subject to deductible, copayment, coinsurance or out-of-pocket maximum features of the plans include routine diagnostic medical procedures, EKG, x-ray, ovarian cancer screenings and colorectal cancer screening x-ray.

**Physician Services**
- Surgery.
- Anesthesia services – if administered at same time as covered surgical procedure.
- Assist at surgery – when performed by a physician, dentist or podiatrist
- Sterilization procedures – even if elective.
- Medical care visits – physician’s office visit or if your physician comes to your home, or while an inpatient in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or abuse treatment facility or a patient in a partial hospitalization treatment program or coordinated home care program.
Consultations – as requested by your doctor for another doctor’s advice in the diagnosis or treatment of a condition that requires special skill or knowledge.

Outpatient periodic health examinations – including:
- Mammograms
- Clinical breast examinations
- Routine cervical smears or Pap smears
- Routine prostate-specific antigen tests and digital rectal examinations
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Ovarian cancer screening.

Routine pediatric care.

Diagnostic services.

Injected medicines.

Amino acid-based elemental formulas.

Electroconvulsive therapy.

Radiation therapy.

Chemotherapy.

Outpatient rehabilitative therapy.

Outpatient speech therapy – for pervasive developmental disorders.

Outpatient respiratory therapy.

Chiropractic and osteopathic manipulation.

Hearing screening.

Diabetes self-management training and education.

Routine visual examination.

Dental accident care.

Family planning services.

Bone mass measurement and osteoporosis.

Investigational cancer treatment.

Infertility treatment – see Illinois Infertility Mandate.

Mastectomy related services – see the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act.

Maternity services.

Urgent care – if you are traveling outside the plan’s service area.

Follow-up care – if you will need follow-up care for an existing condition while traveling.

Hospital Services – Inpatient Care

- Bed, board and general nursing care – provided in a semi-private or private room or in an intensive care unit.
- Ancillary services – including (but not limited to) operating rooms, drugs, surgical dressings and lab work.
- Preadmission testing – preoperative tests performed on an outpatient basis.
- Partial hospitalization treatment – therapeutic treatment in a hospital for patients with mental illness.
- Coordinated home care.

Hospital Services – Outpatient Care

- Surgery and any related diagnostic services received on the same day as the surgery.
- Radiation therapy treatments.
- Chemotherapy.
- Electroconvulsive therapy.
- Renal dialysis treatments – if received in a hospital, a dialysis facility or in your home under the supervision of a hospital or dialysis facility.

**Hospital Services – Special Programs/Other Services**
- Coordinated home care program.
- Pre-admission testing.
- Partial hospitalization treatment program – a therapeutic treatment program in a hospital for patients with mental illness.
- Surgical implants.
- Maternity services.
- Urgent care – if you are traveling outside the plan’s service area.
- Follow-up care – if you will need follow-up care for an existing condition while traveling.

**Supplemental Benefits**
- Blood and blood components.
- Medical and surgical dressings, supplies, casts and splints.
- Prosthetic devices.
- Durable medical equipment.

**Emergency Care Benefits**
- In-area treatment – if within 30 miles of your participating medical group.
- Out-of-area treatment – if more than 30 miles from your participating medical group.

**Chemical Dependency Treatment Benefits**
- In-patient services.
- Out-patient services.
- Detoxification.

**Away from Home Care® Benefits**
- Guest membership – if you will be living outside the plan’s service area for more than 90 days (but retaining your permanent residence within the service area).

**Other Services**
- Human organ transplant services.
- Hospice care services:
  - Coordinated home care
  - Medical supplies and dressings
  - Medication
  - Nursing services – skilled and non-skilled
  - Occupational therapy
  - Pain management services
  - Physical therapy
- Social and spiritual services
- Respite care services.
- Vision care services – benefits for lenses, frames and contact lenses.

**Prescription Drugs**
- Drugs that are self-administered that require – by federal law – a written prescription.
- Self-injectable insulin and insulin syringes.
- Diabetic supplies – including test strips, glucagen emergency kits and lancets.

**Services That Are Not Covered – Premier, Select, Value & ACA Value PPOs**

In general, the PPO plans will pay no benefits for services that are deemed “medically unnecessary” by the Claims administrator.

*Medically necessary* means that a specific medical, health care or hospital service is required – in the reasonable judgment of the Claims administrator – for the treatment or management of a medical symptom or condition and that the service or care provided is the most efficient and economical service which can safely be provided.

Other services that the Premier, Select and Value PPO plans do not cover – and for which no benefits will be paid – include (but are not limited to):
- Hospital admissions for or consisting primarily of observation and/or evaluation that could have been provided safely and adequately in some other setting – for example, in a doctor’s office or hospital outpatient department.
- Hospital admissions primarily for diagnostic studies (x-ray, laboratory and pathological services and machine diagnostic tests) which could have been provided safely and adequately in some other setting – for example, in a doctor’s office or hospital outpatient department.
- Continued inpatient hospital care – when a patient’s medical symptoms and condition no longer require inpatient care.
- Hospitalization or admission to a skilled nursing facility, nursing home or other facility for the primary purpose of providing custodial care service, convalescent care, rest cures or domiciliary care to the patient.
- Hospitalization or admission to a skilled nursing facility for the convenience of the patient or doctor or because care in the home is not available or is unsuitable.
- The use of skilled or private duty nurses to assist in daily living activities, routine supportive care or to provide services for the convenience of the patient and/or his family members.
- Services or supplies that are not specifically mentioned in the applicable plan’s certificate of coverage.
- Services or supplies for any illness or injury arising out of or in the course of employment for which benefits are available under any Workers’ Compensation Law or other similar laws whether or not you make a claim for such compensation or receive such benefits.
- Services or supplies that are furnished to you by the local, state or federal government and for any services or supplies to the extent payment or benefits are
provided or available from the local, state or federal government – for example, Medicare – whether or not that payment or benefits are received, except however, this exclusion shall not be applicable to medical assistance benefits under Article V or VI of the Illinois Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/5-1 et seq. or 5/6-1 et seq.) or similar Legislation of any state, benefits provided in compliance with the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act or as otherwise provided by law.

- Services and supplies for any illness or injury occurring on or after your coverage date as a result of war or an act of war.
- Services or supplies that do not meet accepted standards of medical and/or dental practice.
- Investigational services and supplies and all related services and supplies, except as may be provided under this handbook for the cost of routine patient care associated with investigational cancer treatment, if those services or supplies would otherwise be covered under this handbook if not provided in connection with an approved clinical trial program.
- Custodial care services.
- Long term care services.
- Respite care service, except as specifically mentioned under the hospice care program.
- Inpatient private duty nursing services.
- Services or supplies received during an inpatient stay when the stay is primarily related to behavioral, social maladjustment, lack of discipline or other antisocial actions, which are not specifically the result of mental illness. This does not include services or supplies provided for the treatment of an injury resulting from an act of domestic violence or a medical condition (including both physical and mental health conditions).
- Cosmetic surgery and related services and supplies, except for the correction of congenital deformities or for conditions resulting from accidental injuries, scars, tumors or diseases.
- Services or supplies for which you are not required to make payment or would have no legal obligation to pay if you did not have this or similar coverage.
- Charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit or charges for completion of a claim form.
- Personal hygiene, comfort or convenience items commonly used for other than medical purposes, such as air conditioners, humidifiers, physical fitness equipment, televisions and telephones.
- Special braces, splints, specialized equipment, appliances, ambulatory apparatus, battery implants – except as specifically mentioned in this handbook.
- Blood derivatives that are not classified as drugs in the official formularies.
- Eyeglasses, contact lenses or cataract lenses and the examination for prescribing or fitting of glasses or contact lenses or for determining the refractive state of the eye, except as specifically mentioned in this handbook.
- Treatment of flat foot conditions and the prescription of supportive devices for such conditions and the treatment of subluxations of the foot.
- Routine foot care – except for persons diagnosed with diabetes.
- Maintenance occupational therapy, maintenance physical therapy and maintenance speech therapy – except as specifically mentioned in this handbook.
- Maintenance care.
- Speech therapy – when rendered for the treatment of psychosocial speech delay, behavioral problems (including impulsive behavior and impulsivity syndrome), attention disorder, conceptual handicap or mental retardation.
- Hearing aids or examinations for the prescription or fitting of hearing aids – unless otherwise specified in this handbook.
- Services and supplies to the extent benefits are duplicated because the spouse, partner and/or child are covered separately under a University-sponsored health plan.
- Diagnostic service as part of routine physical examinations or check-ups, premarital examinations, determination of the refractive errors of the eyes, auditory problems, surveys, case finding, research studies, screening, or similar procedures and studies, or tests which are investigational – unless otherwise specified in this handbook.
- Procurement or use of prosthetic devices, special appliances and surgical implants which are for cosmetic purposes, the comfort and convenience of the patient, or unrelated to the treatment of a disease or injury.
- Wigs (also referred to as cranial prostheses) – unless otherwise specified in this handbook.
- Services and supplies rendered or provided for human organ or tissue transplants other than those specifically named in this handbook.
- Reversals of sterilization.
- Immunizations for foreign travel and employment requirements – unless otherwise specified in this handbook.
- Implants and any related services and supplies associated with the placement and care of implants.
- Endosteal implants and the associated surgical procedures.
Hospice Care
- Durable medical equipment.
- Home delivered meals.
- Homemaker services.
- Traditional medical services provided for the direct care of the terminal illness, disease or condition.
- Transportation – including (but not limited to) ambulance transportation.

Prescription Drugs
- Drugs used for cosmetic purposes – including (but not limited to) Retin-A/Tretinoin and Minoxidil/Rogaine.
- Drugs for which there is an over-the-counter product available with the same active ingredient(s).
- Drugs that are not self-administered.
- Any devices or appliances – except as specifically mentioned above.
- Any charges that you may incur for the drugs being administered to you.
- Refills – if the prescription is more than one year old.

Services That Are Not Covered – HMO Illinois
Services that the HMO Illinois plan does not cover – and for which no benefits will be paid– include (but are not limited to):
- Services or supplies that are not specifically mentioned in the plan’s certificate of coverage.
- Services or supplies that were not ordered by your PCP – except those received during an emergency or as identified in the certificate of coverage.
- Services or supplies that were received prior to the date your coverage began or after the date your coverage was terminated.
- Services or supplies for any illness or injury arising out of or in the course of employment for which benefits are available under any Workers’ Compensation Law or other similar laws whether or not you make a claim for such compensation or receive such benefits.
- Services or supplies that are furnished to you by the local, state or federal government and for any services or supplies to the extent payment or benefits are provided or available from the local, state or federal government – for example, Medicare – whether or not that payment or benefits are received, except however, this exclusion shall not be applicable to medical assistance benefits under Article V or VI of the Illinois Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/5-1 et seq. or 5/6-1 et seq.) or similar Legislation of any state, benefits provided in compliance with the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act or as otherwise provided by law.
- Services or supplies rendered to you as the result of an injury caused by another person.
- Services or supplies that do not meet accepted standards of medical and/or dental practice.
- Custodial care services.
- Long term care services.
- Respite care services – except as specifically mentioned under the hospice care program.
• Services or supplies rendered because of behavioral, social maladjustment, lack of discipline or other antisocial actions that are not specifically the result of mental illness.
• Special education therapy such as music therapy or recreational therapy.
• Cosmetic surgery and related services and supplies – except for the correction of congenital deformities or for conditions resulting from accidental injuries, tumors or disease.
• Services or supplies received from a dental or medical department or clinic maintained by an employer, labor union or other similar person or group.
• Services or supplies for which you are not required to make payment or would have no legal obligation to pay if you did not have this or similar coverage.
• Charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit or charges for completion of a claim form or charges for the transfer of medical records.
• Personal hygiene, comfort or convenience items commonly used for other than medical purposes such as air conditioners, humidifiers, physical fitness equipment, televisions and telephones.
• Special braces, splints, specialized equipment, appliances, ambulatory apparatus or, battery implants except as specifically mentioned in the certificate of coverage.
• Prosthetic devices, special appliances or surgical implants which are for cosmetic purposes, the comfort or convenience of the patient or unrelated to the treatment of a disease or injury.
• Nutritional items such as infant formula, weight-loss supplements, over-the-counter food substitutes, non-prescription vitamins and herbal supplements.
• Blood derivatives that are not classified as drugs in the official formularies.
• Marriage counseling.
• Hypnotism.
• Inpatient and outpatient private duty nursing service.
• Routine foot care, except for persons diagnosed with diabetes.
• Maintenance occupational therapy, maintenance physical therapy and maintenance speech therapy – except as specifically mentioned in the certificate of coverage.
• Maintenance care.
• Self-management training, education and medical nutrition therapy – except as specifically mentioned in the certificate of coverage.
• Services or supplies rendered for the care, treatment, filling, removal, replacement or artificial restoration of the teeth or structures directly supporting the teeth – except as specifically mentioned in the certificate of coverage.
• Treatment of temporomandibular joint syndrome with intraoral prosthetic devices or any other method which alters vertical dimension or treatment of temporomandibular joint dysfunction not caused by documented organic joint disease or physical trauma.
• Services or supplies rendered for human organ or tissue transplants – except as specifically provided for in the certificate of coverage.
• Wigs – also referred to as cranial prostheses.
• Services or supplies rendered for infertility treatment except as specifically provided for in the certificate of coverage.
• Outpatient prescription drugs or medicines.
- Outpatient contraceptive devices and services.

**Hospice Care**
- Durable medical equipment.
- Home delivered meals.
- Homemaker services.
- Traditional medical services provided for the direct care of the terminal illness, disease or condition.
- Transportation – including (but not limited to) ambulance transportation.

**Prescription Drugs**
- Drugs used for cosmetic purposes – including (but not limited to) Retin-A/Tretinoin and Minoxidil/Rogaine.
- Drugs for which there is an over-the-counter product available with the same active ingredient(s).
- Drugs that are not self-administered.
- Any devices or appliances – except as specifically mentioned above.
- Any charges that you may incur for the drugs being administered to you.
- Refills – if the prescription is more than one year old.

**Coverage While On a Leave of Absence**
If you are on a leave of absence you may continue to participate in health coverage. If you are on a:
- **Paid leave** – you may continue to pay your health plan premiums through payroll deduction.
- **Unpaid leave** – you must pay your health plan premiums by check made out to Northwestern University and submitted to the Benefits Division.

**Coverage While On Disability**
If you are disabled and receiving benefit payments from a University-sponsored disability plan you may continue your health coverage. If you are receiving:
- **Extended Sick Time benefits** – your health plan premiums will be deducted on a pre-tax basis.
- **Long Term Disability benefits** – Benefits Billing will send you a bill for your monthly premiums and you will submit your payment via check.

**Note**: Your health plan coverage may continue for up to a maximum of two years while receiving Extended Sick Time and Long Term Disability benefits.

**Coverage When You Retire**
If you retire from University employment and meet specified age and service requirements (see table), you may continue to participate in University-sponsored health coverage.
### Age and Service Requirements for Health Coverage in Retirement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at Retirement:</th>
<th>55</th>
<th>56</th>
<th>57</th>
<th>58</th>
<th>59</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>61</th>
<th>62</th>
<th>63</th>
<th>64</th>
<th>65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service (in years):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As an eligible retiree, your participation in a health plan may continue as long as you submit the premium payment to the University.

Should you die, your surviving spouse or partner and eligible children may continue University-sponsored health coverage under the retiree plan. This eligibility ends for the spouse or partner upon remarriage, or for a child upon adoption or reaching age 26.

For details about your health coverage options at retirement see Benefit Program Information for Retirees.

### Coverage Upon Termination of Employment

Your coverage will end at the end of the month in which termination of your University employment occurs. However, you may elect to temporarily continue health coverage for yourself and your eligible family members, as provided under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). For more information about COBRA coverage continuation and instructions for enrolling in this coverage, see COBRA Benefits and Terminated Employees and COBRA.

### Coverage Upon Your Death

Your surviving spouse or partner and eligible children may continue University-sponsored health coverage under the retiree plan as long as they continue to submit the required premium payment to the University. This eligibility ends for the spouse or partner upon remarriage, or for a child upon adoption or reaching age 26.
Dental PPO
The Dental PPO plan offers a type of coverage known as “preferred provider organization,” or PPO. A PPO plan enables members to choose to receive care from any licensed dental provider, but will pay higher benefits for “in-network” services (that is, services performed by members of a “preferred” provider network) – in this case, the Dearborn National Dental Network. To see if a particular dentist is a member of the network, call Dearborn National Customer Service at 800-573-9827 or search the find a dentist at www.dearbornnational.com.

Note: When you choose to see an in-network provider, your share of the cost and the benefits you receive will be based on the specified maximum allowance for these services and your share of these costs will generally be less than what you would pay for the same services performed by an out-of-network provider.

The Dental PPO is a self-insured plan administered by Dearborn National for dental services. As a self-insured plan, the Dental PPO:
- Is funded by both employee and employer contributions deposited to a trust
- Pays claims and other expenses from the trust, and
- Is exempt from covering services mandated by state law.

Dental HMO
This plan offers coverage through a “dental health maintenance organization,” or Dental HMO. As a Dental HMO, this plan pays benefits only for dental care services received from a network of dental providers – in this case, the First Commonwealth HMO provider network – and (except in the case of an emergency) only for services approved in advance by your primary dental care provider.

If you enroll in this coverage option, you – and each eligible family member you include under your coverage – must choose a dentist who is a member of the First Commonwealth HMO provider network as your primary dental care provider. To see if a particular dentist is a member of the network, call First Commonwealth Customer Service at 866-866-4542 or search the online provider directory at guardiananytime.com.

Note: Services received from a dental specialist must be based on a referral from – and authorized in advance by – the primary dental care provider. University employees located outside of Illinois should not enroll in this coverage.

Like most HMO plans, the Dental HMO is a fully insured plan. As a fully insured plan it:
- Is funded by both employee and employer contributions paid directly to it, and
- Must provide coverage mandated by state law.

How PPO and HMO Coverage Differ
While both plans provide benefits toward the cost of dental care services, they differ in three important ways:
- How much you pay in monthly premiums toward the cost of your coverage
- How much flexibility you have in choosing the providers you go to for dental care services, and
- How much you pay out-of-pocket at the time you receive a dental care service or the amount you will owe once a claim is processed.

For details about key plan features – including current-year deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, out-of-pocket expense limits and premiums – see the individual plan highlights. For a side-by-side comparison of these features for the PPO and HMO plans you can also refer to the materials you receive during annual Open Enrollment. Complete Dental PPO details are provided in the certificate of coverage at Health, Dental & Vision Plans, and a complete listing of covered services – and related copayments – under the Dental HMO is provided in the Schedule of Member Payment Responsibilities. For more information about premiums and what they're based on, see Contributions in this handbook.

What You May Pay

Whichever dental plan you choose, you may pay a portion of the cost of any dental care services you receive – either at the time the service is received or after a dental care claim is processed by the sponsoring insurance company. The ways you may pay for dental care services differ based on the dental plan you choose.

If you choose coverage under the Dental PPO the amounts you will pay for dental care services are:

- **Deductible** – The flat-dollar amount you pay each year out-of-pocket for dental care services under the Dental PPO plan before the plan will begin paying benefits toward the cost of these services. **Note:** The deductible does not apply to diagnostic and preventive services.
- **Coinsurance** – A percentage of the cost of a service that you pay (which varies from 0% to 50%). The charge on which this coinsurance is based on whether you receive services from an in-network or out-of-network provider; if you receive services:
  - **In-Network** – that is, from a dentist who is a member of the Dearborn National Dental Network – your benefits will be based on the “maximum allowance” that applies to each service. The maximum allowance is the amount that network providers have agreed to accept as payment in full for a particular service.
  - **Out-of-Network** – that is, from a dentist who is not a member of the Dearborn National Dental Network – your benefits will based on the usual and customary fee for the service in your area, as determined by Dearborn National; you will pay any difference between your dentist’s charge and the usual and customary fee.

Coinsurance begins ONLY after you have met the annual deductible.

If you choose coverage under the Dental HMO the amount you will pay for dental care services are the flat-dollar amounts you pay for specified services, as listed in the Schedule of Member Payment Responsibilities, which is updated annually. Once you pay the copayment, the Dental HMO plan pays the balance of the cost. You pay a
copayment – which is typically a small fraction of the total cost of the service to which it applies – at the time the service is received. **Note:** No benefits will be paid for services received from a dentist who is not a member of the First Commonwealth HMO provider network.
Covered Services

The Dental PPO covers the following services unless otherwise noted. Additional information regarding covered services is available in the benefits booklets and certificates of coverage at Health, Dental & Vision Plans.

For a listing of services that are covered by the Dental HMO – and the copayment that applies to each service – see the Schedule of Member Payment Responsibilities.

Diagnostic and Preventive Dental Services
- Oral examinations (initial and period routine examinations) – up to two every benefit period (January 1-December 31).
- Dental x-rays – benefits for panoramic and routine full mouth x-rays are limited to one full mouth series every 36 months.
- Bitewings are limited to four horizontal films or eight vertical films twice per benefit period.
- Prophylaxis – the routine scaling and polishing of your teeth, limited to two cleanings each benefit period.
- Topical fluoride application – benefits for this application are only available to persons under age 19 and are limited to two applications each benefit period.

Miscellaneous Dental Services
- Sealants – benefits for sealants are limited to permanent teeth for persons under age 19.
- Space maintainers – benefits for space maintainers are only available to persons under age 19 and not when part of orthodontic treatment.
- Labs and tests – pulp vitality tests.
- Emergency oral examinations and palliative emergency treatment for the temporary relief of pain.

Restorative Dental Services
- Amalgams (fillings) – limited to once per surface per tooth in any benefit period.
- Pin retention.
- Composites.
- Simple extractions – except as specifically excluded under Special Limitations (see page 2.24).
- Denture reline – limited to once in any six-month period.
- Denture rebase – limited to once per tooth in any 60-month period.
- Addition of tooth or clasp.
### Special Limitations
No benefits will be paid for:

- Dental services which are performed for cosmetic purposes.
- Dental services or appliances for the diagnosis and/or treatment of Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunctional and related disorders – except as specifically referenced in this section.
- Oral surgery for:
  - Surgical services related to a congenital malformation
  - Excision of tumors or cysts of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth, and
  - Excision of exostoses of the jaws and hard palate (provided this procedure is not done in preparation for dentures or other prostheses); treatment of fractures of facial bone, external incision and drainage of cellulitis, incision of accessory sinuses, salivary glands or ducts, reduction of dislocation or excision of the temporomandibular joints.
- Dental services which are performed due to an accidental injury when caused by external force (i.e., any outside strength producing damage to the dentition and/or oral structures.
- Hospital and ancillary charges.

### General Dental Services

- General anesthesia/intravenous sedation – if medically necessary and administered with a covered dental procedure. **Note:** The anesthesia must be given by a person who is licensed to administer general anesthesia/intravenous sedation.
- Home visits – when medically required to render a covered dental service.
- Stainless steel crowns – limited to one per tooth in a 60-month period and not to be used as a temporary crown.
- Injection of antibiotic drugs.
- Occlusional guards for bruxism.

### Endodontic Services

- Root canal therapy.
- Pulp cap.
- Apicoectomy.
- Apexification.
- Retrograde filling.
- Root amputation/hemisection.
- Therapeutic pulpotomy.
- Pulpal debridement.
Periodontic Services
- Periodontal scaling and root planning – limited to one full mouth treatment per benefit period.
- Full mouth debridement – limited to one time per benefit period.
- Gingivectomy/gingivoplasty – limited to one full mouth treatment per benefit period.
- Gingival flap procedure – limited to one full mouth treatment per benefit period.
- Osseous surgery – limited to one full mouth treatment per benefit period.
- Osseous grafts.
- Soft tissue grafts.
- Periodontal maintenance procedures – benefits for periodontal maintenance procedures are limited to two per benefit period. In addition, you must have received active periodontal therapy before benefits for these procedures will be provided.

Oral Surgery Services
- Surgical tooth extraction.
- Alveoloplasty.
- Vestibuloplasty.
- Other necessary dental surgical procedures.
- Impacted wisdom teeth.

Crowns, Inlays/Onlays Services
- Dental services resulting from extensive disease or fracture – limited to one per tooth in a 60-month period.
- Prefabricated post and cores.
- Cast post and cores.
- Crowns, inlays/onlays repairs.
- Recementation of crowns, inlays/onlays.

Prosthodontic Services
- Bridges.
- Dentures.
- Adjustments to bridges and dentures – during the first six months after obtaining dentures or having them relined, adjustments are covered only if done by someone other than the dentist or his in-office associates who provided or relined the dentures.
- Bridge and denture repairs – limited to once per tooth in any 60-month period.

Once you receive benefits for a crown, inlay, onlay, bridge or denture, replacements are not covered until five years have elapsed. Also, benefits are not available for replacement of a bridge or denture that could have been made serviceable.

Implants
Covered services include the surgical placement, maintenance and repair of an implant body, including services associated with preparation of the implant site (i.e., splinting, grafting).
Orthodontic Dental Services
If you elect Dental PPO coverage your dental benefits include coverage for orthodontic appliances and treatments when they are being provided to correct problems of growth and development. These benefits are subject to the lifetime maximum and limited as follows:

- Benefits are only available for dependent child(ren) under age 26 and will end on their 26th birthday.
- Benefits for orthodontic treatment will be available over the course of treatment.
- Benefits will not be provided for the replacement or repair of any appliance used during orthodontic treatment.

Services That Are Not Covered
In general, the Dental PPO will not pay benefits for services that are deemed “medically unnecessary” by the Claims administrator.

*Medically necessary* means that a specific dental service is required – in the reasonable judgment of the Claims administrator – for the treatment or management of a dental symptom or condition and that the service or care provided is the most efficient and economical service that can safely be provided.

Other services that are not covered by the Dental PPO – and for which no benefits will be paid – include (but are not limited to):

- Services or supplies that are not specifically mentioned in this handbook.
- Services or supplies for any illness or injury arising out of or in the course of employment for which benefits are available under any Workers’ Compensation Law or other similar laws whether or not you make a claim for such compensation or receive such benefits. However, this exclusion shall not apply if you are a corporate officer of any domestic or foreign corporation and are employed by the corporation and elect to withdraw yourself from the operation of the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Act according to the provisions of the Act.
- Services or supplies that are furnished to you by the local, state or federal government and for any services or supplies to the extent payment or benefits are provided or available from the local, state or federal government (for example, Medicare) whether or not that payment or benefits are received, except however, this exclusion shall not be applicable to medical assistance benefits under Article V or VI of the Illinois Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/5-1 et seq. or 5/6-1 et seq.) or similar legislation of any state, benefits provided in compliance with the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act or as otherwise provided by law.
- Services and supplies for any illness or injury occurring on or after your coverage date as a result of war or an act of war.
- Services or supplies that do not meet accepted standards of medical and/or dental practice.
- Investigational services and supplies and all related services and supplies, except as may be provided under this benefit booklet for the cost of routine patient care associated with Investigational cancer treatment, if those services or supplies
would otherwise be covered under this benefit booklet if not provided in connection with an approved clinical trial program.

- Charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit or charges for completion of a Claim form.
- Services and supplies to the extent benefits are duplicated because the spouse, partner and/or child are covered separately under the plan.

**Coverage While On a Leave of Absence**

If you are on a leave of absence you may continue to participate in dental coverage. If you on a:

- **Paid leave** – you may continue to pay your dental plan premiums through payroll deduction.
- **Unpaid leave** – you must pay your dental plan premiums by check made out to Northwestern University and submitted to the Benefits Division.

**Coverage While On Disability**

If you are disabled and receiving benefit payments from a University-sponsored disability plan you may continue your dental coverage. If you are receiving:

- **Extended Sick Time benefits** – your dental plan premiums will be deducted on a pre-tax basis.
- **Long Term Disability benefits** – Benefits Billing will send you a bill for your monthly premiums and you will submit your payment via check.

**Note:** Your dental plan coverage may continue for up to a maximum of two years while receiving Extended Sick Time and Long Term Disability benefits.

**Coverage When You Retire**

If you retire from University employment and meet specified age and service requirements (see table), you may continue to participate in University-sponsored dental coverage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age and Service Requirements for Dental Coverage in Retirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age at Retirement:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service (in years):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full-Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part-Time</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As an eligible retiree, your participation in a dental plan may continue as long as you submit the premium payment to the University.

Should you die, your surviving spouse or partner and eligible children may continue University-sponsored dental coverage under the retiree plan. This eligibility ends for the spouse or partner upon remarriage, or for a child upon adoption or reaching age 26.

For details about your dental coverage options at retirement see Benefit Program Information for Retirees.
Coverage Upon Termination of Employment
Your coverage will end at the end of the month in which termination of your University employment occurs. However, you may elect to temporarily continue dental coverage for yourself and your eligible family members, as provided under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). For more information about COBRA coverage continuation and instructions for enrolling in this coverage, see COBRA Benefits and Terminated Employees and COBRA.

Coverage Upon Your Death
Your surviving spouse or partner and eligible children may continue University-sponsored dental coverage under the retiree plan as long as they continue to submit the required premium payment to the University. This eligibility ends for the spouse or partner upon remarriage, or for a child upon adoption or reaching age 26.
Vision Care

EyeMed Vision Care
If you enroll in the EyeMed vision plan you will have the option of using an in-network or an out-of-network provider each time you seek vision care. EyeMed Vision Care’s network of providers includes private practitioners, as well as the nation’s premier retailers, such as LensCrafters®, Sears Optical, Target Optical and JC Penney Optical, as well as most Pearle Vision locations.

To locate an EyeMed Vision Care provider near you, visit www.eyemedvisioncare.com and choose the Insight Network. Or you can call EyeMed’s Customer Care Center at 866-800-5457 – Monday through Saturday (6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central Time) and Sunday (10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time).

Note: While EyeMed Vision Care makes every attempt to keep its lists of in-network providers current, changes to the provider networks occur frequently. Before you schedule an appointment with a vision care provider you believe to be a member of the EyeMed Vision Care network, you should contact the provider’s office directly to confirm that the provider is a current member of the EyeMed Insight network.

Using an EyeMed Network Provider
Before going to a participating EyeMed Vision Care provider for an eye exam, glasses or contact lenses, it is recommended that you call ahead for an appointment. When you call:

- Identify yourself as an EyeMed member
- Confirm the provider is an in-network provider for the Insight Network, and
- Provide your name and the name of your organization or plan number, located on the front of your ID card.

When you arrive for your appointment, show the receptionist or sales associate your EyeMed Identification Card. If you forget to take your card, say that you are participating in an EyeMed vision plan so that your eligibility can be verified. Note: While your ID card is not necessary to receive services, it is helpful to present your EyeMed Vision Care ID card to verify your eligibility.

The provider will file your claim. You will have to pay the cost of any services or eyewear that exceeds any allowances, and any applicable co-payments. You will also owe state tax, if applicable, and the cost of non-covered expenses (for example, vision perception training).

Using an Out-of-Network Provider
If you choose to receive services from a vision care provider who is NOT a member of the EyeMed network, you will pay for the full cost of the service at the point of service. You will be reimbursed, as outlined in the Summary of Covered Vision Care Services.
For details about key plan features – including current-year copayments, discounts and allowances – see the plan highlights. Additional information about key features of the Vision Plan is provided in the materials you receive during annual Open Enrollment. For more information about premiums and what they’re based on, see Contributions in this handbook. Note: If you are enrolled in one of the University’s health care plans, you have vision discounts through the BlueExtras Discount Program at no additional cost.

To receive a reimbursement for your out-of-pocket expenses, you will need to complete and submit a claim (see Claim Filing). Note: For your convenience, an EyeMed out-of-network claim form is available at www.eyemedvisioncare.com or by calling EyeMed’s Customer Care Center at 866-800-5457.

What You May Pay
To fully understand the benefits that are provided under the Vision Plan, you should know the meaning of the following terms.

Allowance
This is a specified amount the EyeMed Vision Care Plan will pay toward the cost of certain vision care services and/or supplies. In some cases, a copayment applies (see below). If the cost of a service or supply exceeds the applicable allowance, you pay the balance (but a discount typically applies to the excess). Note: Allowances are one-time use benefits; if you do not use the full allowance for a purchase, no remaining balance remains for use later in the same plan year. Lost or broken materials are not covered.

Copayment
A copayment is a set dollar amount that you pay for specified vision services. Once you pay the copay, the EyeMed Vision Care Plan pays 100% of the remaining cost of the service; in some cases, this 100% benefit is subject to a specified “allowance” amount (see above).

Covered Services
The EyeMed Vision Care Plan covers the following services. Additional information regarding covered services is available in the certificate of coverage at Health, Dental & Vision Plans.

- Comprehensive eye exam – once per calendar year.
- Lenses for eyeglasses (in lieu of contact lenses) – once per calendar year:
  - One pair of standard single vision, lined bifocal, lined trifocal or standard lenticular lenses
  - Standard scratch-resistant coating and polycarbonate lenses.
  Note: Lens options such as progressive lenses, tints, UV and anti-reflective coating may be available at discount.
- Frames for eyeglasses (in lieu of contact lenses) – once every 24 months.
- Conventional contact lenses or disposable contact lenses (in lieu of eyeglass lenses) – once per calendar year.
Laser vision – discounted laser vision correction procedures through U.S. Laser Network (see Laser Vision Correction Benefit on page 2.31).

Laser Vision Correction Benefit
EyeMed Vision Care, in partnership with U.S. Laser Network, offers discounts to members interested in Lasik and PRK. EyeMed members receive a discount (15% off retail or 5% off promotional price) when using a network provider in the U.S. Laser Network, owned and operated by LCA Vision. The U.S. Laser Network offers many locations nationwide.

For additional information or to locate a network provider, visit [www.eyemedlasik.com](http://www.eyemedlasik.com) or call 877-5LASER6. Once you receive the name and number of a U.S. Laser Network provider:
- Contact the provider
- Identify yourself as an EyeMed vision plan member, and
- Schedule a consultation to determine if you are a good candidate for laser vision correction.

If it is determined that you are a good candidate for laser vision correction, you should schedule a treatment date with a U.S. Laser Network provider. To activate your benefit, you must call 877.5LASER6 again and provide your scheduled treatment date.

At the time your treatment is scheduled you will need to pay an initial deposit to U.S. Laser Network; this deposit will be applied toward the cost of your treatment. Should you decide against the treatment, the deposit will be refunded. You will be issued an authorization number confirming your EyeMed Vision Care discount; this number also will be sent to your U.S. Laser Network provider prior to treatment.

On your scheduled treatment date, you must pay (or arrange to pay) the balance of the fee. After the treatment, you will be responsible for following all post-operative instructions carefully and scheduling any required follow-up visits with a U.S. Laser Network provider.

Services That Are Not Covered
The Vision Plan does not pay benefits for:
- Orthoptic or vision training, subnormal vision aids and any associated supplemental testing.
- Aniseikonic lenses.
- Medical and/or surgical treatment of the eye, eyes or supporting structures.
- Corrective eyewear required by an employer as a condition of employment and safety eyewear.
- Services provided as a result of any workers’ compensation law.
- Plano non-prescription lenses and non-prescription sunglasses (except for 20% discount).
- Two pairs of glasses in lieu of bifocals.
- Services or materials provided by any other group benefit plan providing vision care or services rendered after the date you or a covered family member ceases to be covered under the policy (except when vision materials ordered before
coverage ended are delivered, and the services rendered to the Insured Person are within 31 days from the date of such order).

- Lost or broken lenses, frames, glasses, or contact lenses will not be replaced except in the next Benefit Frequency when vision materials would next become available.
- Discounts on frames where the manufacturer prohibits discounts, including, but not limited to: Bulgari, Cartier, Chanel, Gold & Wood, Maui Jim and Pro Design.
- Applicable taxes.
- Visual Display Terminal (VDT) Exam.

**Coverage While On a Leave of Absence**
If you are on a leave of absence you may continue to participate in vision coverage. If you on a:

- **Paid leave** – you may continue to pay your vision plan premiums through payroll deduction.
- **Unpaid leave** – you must pay your vision plan premiums by check made out to Northwestern University and submitted to the Benefits Division.

**Coverage While On Disability**
If you are disabled and receiving benefit payments from a University-sponsored disability plan you may continue your vision coverage. If you are receiving:

- **Extended Sick Time benefits** – your vision plan premiums will be deducted on a pre-tax basis.
- **Long Term Disability benefits** – Benefits Billing will send you a bill for your monthly premiums and you will submit your payment via check.

**Note:** Your vision plan coverage may continue for up to a maximum of two years while receiving Extended Sick Time and Long Term Disability benefits.

**Coverage When You Retire**
If you retire from University employment and meet specified age and service requirements (see table), you may continue to participate in University-sponsored vision coverage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age and Service Requirements for Vision Coverage in Retirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at Retirement:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service (in years):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As an eligible retiree, your participation in a vision plan may continue as long as you submit the premium payment to the University.

Should you die, your surviving spouse or partner and eligible children may continue University-sponsored vision coverage under the retiree plan. This eligibility ends for the spouse or partner upon remarriage, or for a child upon adoption or reaching age 26.
For details about your vision coverage options at retirement, see Benefit Program Information for Retirees.

**Coverage Upon Termination of Employment**
Your coverage will end at the end of the month in which termination of your University employment occurs. However, you may elect to temporarily continue vision coverage for yourself and your eligible family members, as provided under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). More information about COBRA coverage continuation and instructions for enrolling in this coverage is provided in COBRA Benefits and Terminated Employees and COBRA.

**Coverage Upon Your Death**
Your surviving spouse or partner and eligible children may continue University-sponsored vision coverage under the retiree plan as long as they continue to submit the required premium payment to the University. This eligibility ends for the spouse or partner upon remarriage, or for a child upon adoption or reaching age 26.
Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act/COBRA Continuation Coverage

A federal law called COBRA – the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act – allows you, your spouse or partner and/or dependent children to continue your enrollment in certain University-sponsored benefit plans – at your own expense – if your enrollment terminates due to a qualifying event.

A ***qualifying event*** includes termination of employment or transfer to a non-benefits-eligible position. The type of coverage offered under COBRA is the same as that provided to active employees. However, you are responsible for the total cost of your COBRA coverage (and, if elected, the enrollment costs for your dependents) plus an additional 2% administrative fee.

Under COBRA, you and your currently enrolled family members may continue:

- To be enrolled in health, dental and/or vision coverage for:
  - **18 months** – if you lose coverage because employment ends or hours are reduced.
  - **36 months** – if an enrolled family member loses coverage because of your divorce, your children no longer qualify as eligible family members, your death, or you become eligible for Medicare.
  - **29 months** – if you or an enrolled family member becomes totally disabled within the first 60 days of COBRA coverage.

  *Note:* Additional continuation rules may apply if enrolled in HMO Illinois.

- To participate in a Health Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for the remaining part of the plan year – as long as you continue to remit your deposits.

To continue your current health, dental and/or vision enrollment – and/or your participation in a Health Care FSA – you must elect COBRA coverage within 60 days of the date you are notified of your COBRA rights. If you elect COBRA coverage, you will be required to remit your COBRA payments to the University’s COBRA administrator within 45 days.

For more information about your right to continuing coverage under COBRA, see **COBRA Benefits**.

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA)

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) expands the genetic information protections included under HIPAA. HIPAA prevents the University’s health plans from imposing a preexisting condition exclusion provision based solely on
genetic information and prohibits discrimination in individual eligibility, benefits or premiums based on any health factor (including genetic information).

GINA provides that group health plans cannot base premiums for a group of similarly situated individuals on genetic information. (However, premiums may be increased for the group based upon the manifestation of a disease or disorder of an individual enrolled in the plan.)

GINA also generally prohibits group health plans from requesting or requiring you to undergo a genetic test. However, your health care provider is permitted to request a genetic test. Additionally, genetic testing information may be requested to determine payment of a claim for benefits, although GINA limits the scope of the request to only the minimum amount of information necessary in order to determine payment. There is also a research exception that permits a plan or issuer to request (but not require) that you undergo a genetic test. GINA also prohibits group health plans from collecting genetic information (including family medical history) prior to or in connection with enrollment.

Under GINA, group health plans are generally prohibited from offering rewards in return for collection of genetic information, including family medical history information collected as part of a Health Risk Assessment. An exception is included for incidental collection, provided the information is not used prior to or in connection with enrollment. However, this exception is not available if it is reasonable for group health plans to anticipate that health information will be received in response to a collection unless the collection explicitly states that genetic information should not be provided.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act/HIPAA

Protected Health Information

Effective April 14, 2003, health plans became subject to new federal privacy regulations issued under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). These regulations describe certain limitations on the disclosure of protected health information as well as the measures that organizations must take to safeguard this information.

For more information, see Protection of Personal Health Information.

Illinois Infertility Mandate

Illinois law requires insurance companies and fully insured plans to provide coverage for infertility to employee groups of more than 25 members. The law does not apply to self-insured plans or to trusts or insurance policies written outside of Illinois.

For details, see Illinois Infertility Mandate.

Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act

Federal law generally prohibits group health plans from restricting benefits for hospital lengths of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to:

- Less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, and
- Less than 96 hours following a caesarean section.

However, federal law does not generally prohibit the mother’s or newborn’s attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, the University’s health plans may not, under federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

**Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**

The PPO and HMO health plans are not “grandfathered health plans” under the Affordable Care Act. Therefore, these University-sponsored health plans must include all consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act.

The employer shared responsibility (ESR) portion of the Affordable Care Act went into effect January 1, 2015. ESR requires that employers with 50 or more employees must offer minimum essential health coverage (MEC) to all employees who work an average of 130+ hours per month (30+ hours per week). “Employee” is defined as anyone on the payroll. All temporary employees, employees working less than 18.75 hours per week (less than half time), employees on special pay, and adjunct faculty will be subject to look-back periods where their hours are examined to determine whether or not they meet qualifications to be offered the University’s ACA health plan. The University ACA coverage is health and prescription insurance only through BCBS and Express Scripts.

The employee must complete an employment-based orientation period which begins on his/her start date and lasts until the end of the first calendar month of employment. Starting with the first day of the second calendar month of employment, the employee will begin a waiting period for eligibility under the Northwestern plan. If the waiting period is successfully completed, and the employee is otherwise eligible for coverage under the terms of the plan, the employee may begin coverage on the first day of the fourth month of employment. If an employee accepts the coverage that is offered, the employee will only remain on the plan until he or she has a job status change.

Employees enrolled in the coverage will be offered COBRA upon termination.

For more information on COBRA coverage, click [here](https://www.northwestern.edu/hr/benefits/health-plans/employee-plans/aca-value-ppo.html).

Questions regarding the Affordable Care Act and how it applies to University-sponsored health plans can be directed to the Benefits Division at [847-491-7513](tel:847-491-7513). You may also contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at [866-444-3272](tel:866-444-3272) or [www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform).

**Patient Protection/Designation of Primary Care Provider Disclosure**

The HMO Illinois plan generally requires the designation of a primary care provider. You have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in the HMO.
IL network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact BCBS HMO IL at (800) 892-2803.

For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.

You do not need prior authorization from BCBS IL or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact BCBS IL at (800) 892-2803.

**Protection from Loss of Health Coverage**

If you are an active employee and you decline enrollment for yourself or your eligible family members (including your spouse or partner) under University-sponsored health, dental and/or vision coverage because of other health insurance coverage, you may in the future be able to enroll yourself or your eligible family members provided that you request enrollment within 31 days after your other coverage ends. In addition, if you have a new eligible family member as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your eligible family members, provided that you request enrollment within 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

For more about your enrollment rights in these situations, see Benefit Changes.

**Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

If a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) is issued for your child, he or she will be eligible for enrollment in the coverage as required by the order. You must notify the Benefits Division and enroll that child (and yourself if you are not enrolled) in a University-sponsored health plan within 31 days of the date the Qualified Medical Child Support Order is issued.

A Qualified Medical Child Support Order is a judgment, decree or order (including approval of a settlement agreement) or administrative notice, which is issued pursuant to a state domestic relations law (including a community property law), or to an administrative process, which provides for child support or provides for health benefit coverage to such child and relates to benefits under a group health plan, and satisfies all of the following:

- The order recognizes or creates a child’s right to receive group health benefits for which you are eligible
- The order specifies your name and last known address, and the child’s name and last known address, except that the name and address of an official of a state or political subdivision may be substituted for the child’s mailing address
- The order provides a description of the coverage to be provided, or the manner in which the type of coverage is to be determined
- The order states the period to which it applies, and
- If the order is a National Medical Support Notice completed in accordance with the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998, such Notice meets the above requirements.

The Qualified Medical Child Support Order may not require a University-sponsored health plan to provide coverage for any type or form of benefit or option not otherwise provided under the health plan except an order may require that the health plan comply with state laws regarding child health care coverage.

Any payment of benefits in reimbursement for covered expenses paid by the child, the child’s custodial parent or legal guardian shall be made to the child, the child’s custodial parent or legal guardian, or state official whose name and address have been substituted for the name and address of the child.

**Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act**

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which a mastectomy has been performed
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to create a symmetrical appearance
- Prostheses, and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call BlueCross BlueShield at (800) 327-8497.
3 Spending & Savings Accounts

The University offers you, as an eligible participant, two types of tax-favored accounts in which you may choose to participate – flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and a Health Savings Account (HSA). When you participate in – and make contributions to one of these types of accounts – you can use the money in the account to pay eligible health care or dependent care expenses (depending on the account). Because you make your contributions on a pre-tax basis through automatic payroll deductions – and pay no taxes on these contributions when you use them to pay eligible expenses – participating in these types of accounts is an easy, convenient way to get more out of your paycheck.

Flexible Spending Accounts
You may elect to participate in one or both of the following flexible spending accounts:
- **Health Care FSA** (or **Limited Use FSA** if enrolled in the Value PPO health plan), and/or
- **Dependent Care FSA**.

If you elect to participate in the Dependent Care FSA – and you meet certain eligibility guidelines – the University may make a tax-free matching contribution to your account.

While Northwestern University administers these flexible spending accounts, the Claims administrator is PayFlex Systems USA, Inc.

Health Savings Account
If you elect coverage with the Value PPO health plan, you may choose to open – and make pre-tax contributions to – a Health Savings Account. **Note:** You cannot participate in an HSA if you elect coverage under the University-sponsored Premier PPO, Select PPO or HMO Illinois health plans or if you are eligible for Medicare.

If you elect coverage under the Value PPO and open a Health Savings Account, the University will make a tax-free matching contribution to your HSA. The University will make this one-time contribution only for the first year you participate in an HSA; this contribution will not apply to any “catch-up” contributions you may be eligible to make to the account for that year.

While Northwestern University administers this account, the Claims administrator is PayFlex Systems USA, Inc.

For details about key account features – including current-year contribution limits – see the individual [account highlights](#).
Flexible Spending Accounts

You may choose to participate in a:

- **Health Care FSA** – You can make pre-tax contributions to this account and use this money to pay the cost of eligible health care expenses that you incur anytime during the calendar year during which the contributions are made (January 1-December 31), or during the two-and-a-half month grace period that runs from January 1-March 15 of the following calendar year. **Note:** If you elect coverage under the Value PPO health plan, you cannot participate in a Health Care FSA because you are eligible to open a pre-tax Health Savings Account; however, you can participate in a Limited Use FSA.

- **Dependent Care FSA** – You can make pre-tax contributions to this account and use this money to pay the cost of eligible dependent care expenses that you incur anytime during the calendar year during which the contributions are made (January 1-December 31).

**Note:** If you are newly eligible and your enrollment in an FSA takes effect sometime after January 1, you cannot use your contributions to the FSA for expenses incurred prior to the date your enrollment took effect.

Enrollment in a Health Care FSA (or Limited Use FSA) or in a Dependent Care FSA is not automatic; it is optional and requires active enrollment each year during Open Enrollment.

### Use It or Lose It Rule

When enrolling in an FSA you should carefully estimate your anticipated eligible expenses for the year, as you will forfeit any excess (unused) contributions left in your account(s) after filing claims for all of your eligible expenses for the year. This “use it or lose it” rule is imposed under federal tax laws.

**Note:** You cannot transfer unused contributions from your Health Care FSA (or Limited Use FSA) to your Dependent Care FSA, and vice versa.

### Health Care FSA

If you elect to participate in a Health Care FSA, you choose how much you want to contribute to your account through pre-tax payroll deductions each year.

- The minimum you can choose to contribute in a year is $240.
- The maximum you can choose to contribute in a year is $2,500.

Your contributions will be taken from your pay through automatic payroll deductions. The amount deducted each pay period will be based on the total amount you elect to contribute for the year and the number of pay periods to which the deduction will apply.

You may use your tax-free contributions to a Health Care FSA to reimburse yourself for eligible health care expenses that:
- Are not covered by your health, dental or vision coverage, nor by your spouse’s plans
- Are included in the IRS list of eligible health care expenses, and
- Are for services received by you or your eligible family members whom you claim as a tax exemption on your federal income tax return.

**Note:** It is up to you whether you use tax-free dollars from a Health Care FSA to reimburse yourself these expenses or take them as a tax-deduction on your annual federal income tax return (IRS Form 1040). You may choose one or the other; you may not take a tax-deduction for an eligible expense that has been reimbursed from a Health Care FSA, and vice versa.

You must renew your participation in a Health Care FSA each year during Open Enrollment.

**Eligible Health Care Expenses**
If you elect coverage under the Premier PPO, Select PPO or HMO Illinois health plan, you may use a Health Care FSA to reimburse the copays, coinsurance and deductibles you pay under that coverage with tax-free dollars.

Specific health care services and products for which the cost may be reimbursed through a Health Care FSA include (but are not limited to):
- Acupuncture.
- Ambulance services.
- Birth control prescriptions.
- Blood pressure monitoring devices.
- Breast pumps and supplies that assist lactation.
- Childbirth preparation classes.
- Chiropractic professional fees.
- Contact lenses and cleaning solutions.
- Crutches.
- Dental services.
- Diabetic supplies.
- Diagnostic services and tests.
- Drugs – prescription.
- Eyeglasses.
- Eye examinations.
- Genetic testing.
- Guide animals.
- Hearing aids and batteries.
- Home health care.
- Hospital services.
- Immunizations.
- Laboratory fees.
- Lamaze classes.
- Laser eye surgery.
- Nursing services.
- Obstetrical expenses.
- Optometrist fees.
- Orthodontia.
- Orthopedic shoes.
- Over-the-counter drugs/medicines – with a prescription.

- Physicians’ fees.
- Prostheses.
- Psychiatrists’ fees.
- Psychologists’ fees.
- Radial keratotomy/ortho keratology.
- Reading glasses.
- Schools and education – special (for mentally impaired or physically disabled person).
- Smoking cessation programs.
- Sterilization procedures – vasectomy or tubal ligation.
- Surgical fees.
- Vitamins – only if necessary to treat a specific medical condition and accompanied with a letter of medical necessity.
- Walkers.
- Weight-loss programs.
- Wheelchair.
- Wigs – if purchased on advice of physician for mental health of patient.
- X-ray fees.

Ineligible Health Care Services and Products
You cannot use a Health Care FSA to reimburse yourself costs for services that:

- Are not eligible for a federal income tax deduction – for example, generally not directed or prescribed by a physician or directly related to illness or injury.
- Are taken as a federal income tax deduction.
- Are premiums you pay for group coverage, such as another employer plan or your spouse’s employer plan.
- Are incurred before your enrollment in a Health Care FSA begins, after the end of the applicable plan year or after your enrollment in a Health Care FSA ends.
- Are otherwise paid or reimbursed by insurance, a third party, another employer, Medicare or any other federal or state program.
- Are for cosmetic purposes, or services aimed at only general physical or mental improvement.

A more complete list of eligible and ineligible health care expenses is available at the PayFlex website – [https://www.healthhub.com](https://www.healthhub.com) – or you can obtain a copy of *IRS Publication 502: Medical and Dental Expenses* from the IRS website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).
Limited Use FSA
This type of account is offered as an alternative to a Health Care FSA if you elect coverage under the Value PPO health plan; if you are enrolled in that plan you cannot participate in a Health Care FSA. You may elect to participate in this type of account only if you elect coverage under the Value PPO health plan.

Like a Health Care FSA, this type of account is designed to help you set aside tax-free dollars you can use to pay your share of eligible expenses. Until you meet the Value PPO health plan’s annual deductible each year, you may use the account to reimburse only eligible dental and vision care expenses; once you meet the plan’s annual deductible, however, you may use contributions in your Limited Use FSA to reimburse eligible health care expenses, too.

The amount you can contribute to a Limited Use FSA each year is subject to the same guidelines as the Health Care FSA: the minimum is $240, the maximum is $2,500.

Dependent Care FSA
You may elect to participate in a Dependent Care FSA if you have at least one eligible dependent and you are:
- A single parent, or
- Married and your spouse:
  - Works, or
  - Is a full-time student for at least five months during the year while you are working, or
  - Is disabled and unable to provide for his or her own care, or
- A divorced or legally separated parent who has custody of the child(ren) most of the time, even if the other parent may claim the child(ren) as dependent(s) for tax purposes.

When you elect to participate in a Dependent Care FSA, you choose how much you will contribute to your account through pre-tax payroll deductions for the year.
- The minimum you can choose to contribute in a year is $240.
- The maximum you can choose to contribute in a year is:
  - $5,000 – if you are married and file a joint tax return or if you are single and file taxes as head of household, or
  - $2,500 – if you are married and you and your spouse file separate tax returns.

You must renew your participation in a Dependent Care FSA each year during Open Enrollment.

Eligible Dependent Care Services
You may use tax-free dollars from a Dependent Care FSA to reimburse the cost of dependent care services to the extent that they:
- Are necessary to permit you and, if you are married, your spouse to work. Note: If you are married and contributing to a Dependent Care FSA, and your spouse quits working, you must terminate your enrollment unless your spouse is a full-time student or incapable of self-care.
- Cover care provided in a private home (including yours) or in a day care center. **Note:** If the latter – and the day care center cares for more than six children – it must be a licensed day care facility.
- Are provided for the wellbeing and protection of an eligible dependent, which includes:
  - Any child through age 12 whom you claim as a dependent for federal income tax purposes, and
  - Any other dependent that normally spends at least eight hours a day in your home and is unable to care for himself or herself because of a physical or mental disability.

### Dependent Care University Match

If you are a full-time employee the University may provide a matching contribution to your Dependent Care FSA of up to $4,000 a year to assist in meeting a portion of your annual dependent care expenses. This matching contribution is considered taxable income and must be reported as such on your income tax filing for the year.

To qualify for this matching contribution:
- Your total family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) must not exceed $100,000 a year – as reported on your latest federal income tax return (IRS Form 1040) – or, if married and you and your spouse file income taxes separately, on your spouse’s latest federal income tax return.
- You must be actively at work and, if married, your spouse must also work full-time or be a full-time student.

**Note:** Only full-time Faculty and Staff expenses related to the care of dependent children through age 12 and disabled children through age 15 qualify for this matching contribution.

The amount of the match you can receive will be based on your total family income (see table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your AGI is…</th>
<th>This percent of your own contributions</th>
<th>This dollar amount…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 or less</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,001-$60,000</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60,001-$80,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,001-$100,000</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The dollar amount of the Dependent Care University match shown in this table is based on the assumption that you are contributing the maximum allowed to your Dependent Care FSA under federal guidelines – $5,000. The amount you receive will also be prorated during any calendar year for which you are not eligible to participate in a Dependent Care FSA for the entire year.

For example, if your AGI is $60,000 and you contribute $5,000 to your account for the year, the University match will equal 60% of your contributions, or $3,000. In this case, the amount deducted on a pre-tax basis from your paycheck each month is...
$416.67 ($5,000 ÷ 12) and the amount the University adds to your Dependent Care FSA each month in taxable income is $250 ($3,000 ÷ 12).

**Dependent Care FSA vs. Federal Tax Credit**

You can use a Dependent Care FSA to reimburse yourself for eligible dependent care expenses or you can pay these expenses after tax and take a federal income tax credit when filing your taxes for the year. You cannot use a Dependent Care FSA and take the tax credit for the same expense. Depending on your tax situation, one approach may produce more tax savings than the other.

You should always consult a tax professional if you are unsure as to which approach is better for you. For more information about the federal tax credit, you can obtain a copy of IRS Publication 596: Earned Income Credit from the IRS website: www.irs.gov.

**Ineligible Dependent Care Services**

You cannot use tax-free dollars from a Dependent Care FSA to reimburse yourself the cost of:

- Care provided by someone you claim as a dependent for federal income tax purposes
- Care not necessary for you and your spouse to be employed, such as “evening out” or weekend babysitting expenses
- 24-hour-a-day convalescent nursing home expenses for a parent or a disabled spouse
- Educational expenses
- Kindergarten or school tuition for a child in a higher grade
- Overnight camp expenses
- Expenses for child care that allow your spouse to do volunteer work, or
- Expenses that are incurred before your enrollment in a Dependent Care FSA begins, after the end of the plan year, or after your enrollment in the Dependent Care FSA terminates.

A more complete list of eligible and ineligible dependent care expenses is available at the PayFlex website – https://www.healthhub.com – or you can obtain a copy of IRS Publication 503: Child and Dependent Care Expenses from the IRS website: www.irs.gov.

**Participation While On a Leave of Absence**

If you are on a:

- **Paid leave** – you may continue to make your contributions to a Health Care FSA (or Limited Use FSA) through automatic payroll deductions.
- **Unpaid medical leave** – you must make your contributions to a Health Care FSA (or Limited Use FSA) by check made out to Northwestern University and submitted to the Benefits Division. The contribution amount must be the same amount you were making to a Health Care FSA or Limited Use FSA prior to the
leave. **Note:** You cannot make contributions to a Dependent Care FSA while on an unpaid leave.

- **Unpaid non-medical leave** – your FSA accounts will be temporarily turned off until you return to work.

### Participation While On Disability

If you are disabled and receiving:

- **Extended Sick Time benefits** – your contributions to a Health Care FSA will be deducted on a pre-tax basis.
- **Long Term Disability benefits** – you cannot participate in a Health Care FSA.

### Participation When You Retire

If you retire from University employment, you may continue to submit claims for reimbursement of eligible health care and/or dependent care expenses for services received prior to your retirement date. You will not be able to make any further contributions to an FSA.

### Participation Upon Termination of Employment

Your enrollment in a Health Care FSA, Limited Use FSA and/or Dependent Care FSA will end at the end of the month in which your University employment terminates. However, you may elect to temporarily participate in a Health Care FSA for yourself and your eligible family members, as provided under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). For more information about COBRA coverage continuation and instructions for enrolling in this coverage, see [COBRA Benefits](#) and [Terminated Employees and COBRA](#).

### Participation Upon Your Death

Your surviving eligible family members may elect to temporarily continue participation in a Health Care FSA for themselves, as provided under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). For more information about COBRA coverage continuation and instructions for enrolling in this coverage, see [COBRA Benefits](#) and [Terminated Employees and COBRA](#).
Health Savings Account

If enrolled for coverage under the University’s Value PPO health plan, you can set up a Health Savings Account (HSA) and use pre-tax contributions to the account to pay the cost of qualified health care expenses – as defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – as they occur, or save and invest this money to pay your share of these expenses in the future.

The Value PPO health plan and a Health Savings Account are designed to work together to help you and your family plan, save and pay for health care. Enrollment in a Health Savings Account is not automatic; it is optional and requires active enrollment each year during Open Enrollment.

### You Can Take Your HSA With You
Unlike a Health Care FSA (or Limited Use FSA) you can roll over any remaining balance in your HSA at the end of the year for use in future years. In other words, you don’t lose what you don’t use. This way, the balance in your HSA can grow over time – through automatic rollover of the unused portion of your account from year-to-year, new contributions you make to the account each year and interest and investment earnings on your account.

What’s more, your HSA is completely portable; if you leave University employment you can take your HSA balance with you, or if you switch coverage from the Value PPO health plan to another University-sponsored health plan any balance remaining in your account is yours to keep.

The University makes matching contributions to your account of up to:

- $700 – if you choose You coverage (coverage for you only).
- $1,400 – if you choose You + Spouse/Partner, You + Child(ren) or You + Spouse/Partner + Child(ren) coverage.

This contribution will provide funds in your HSA to pay any eligible health care costs that you may incur before your own contributions to the account begin.

Each year, you can make your own pre-tax contributions to your account of:

- $240 to $1,400 – if you choose You coverage (coverage for you only).
- $240 to $2,800 – if you choose You + Spouse/Partner, You + Child(ren) or You + Spouse/Partner + Child(ren) coverage.

The maximum amount you can contribute equals the annual deductible that applies to the coverage level you choose.

If age 55 or older, you can make a separate “catch-up” contribution to your HSA of up to an additional $1,000 a year. Note: If your spouse is age 55 or older and wants to make catch-up contributions, those contributions must be made to your spouse’s own HSA.
You can invest your HSA balance and pay no taxes on investment earnings as long as you leave this money in your account or use it to pay for qualified health care expenses.

When you become eligible for Medicare, your contributions to an HSA must stop, but you can continue to use your accumulated HSA balance to pay qualified health care expenses, including your Medicare Part B premiums.

**Important!** If you use the money in your HSA to pay for things other than qualified health care expenses, you will pay taxes on this money plus an additional 20% penalty tax. If you are age 65 or older or disabled, the 20% penalty tax will not apply.

You are responsible for saving receipts for all expenses paid from your HSA. If audited by the IRS, you may need to provide proof that all distributions from your HSA were used to pay qualified health care expenses. Any distributions for which you’re unable to provide receipts will be subject to income tax plus an additional 20% tax penalty.

**Qualified Health Care Expenses**

You can use tax-free dollars from your HSA to pay qualified health care expenses only. *Qualified health care expenses* include:

- Deductible, coinsurance and copay amount you pay under your medical coverage
- Prescription drugs (including over-the-counter drugs for which you have a prescription)
- Acupuncture and chiropractic services
- Dental care – including orthodontia
- Vision care – including contact lenses, prescription sunglasses and LASIK surgery
- Hearing aids – including batteries
- Premiums for medical coverage while receiving federal or state unemployment benefits
- COBRA continuation coverage after leaving University employment
- Premiums for eligible long-term care, and
- Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses – including deductibles, copays and coinsurance.

You can use your HSA to pay qualified health care expenses for your spouse and children.

**Important!** Only qualified health care expenses incurred on or after the date your account is opened may be reimbursed through your HSA; your account opening date is noted on your online HSA summary.

For more information about qualified health care expenses, visit the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).
Federal Tax Reporting

When you participate in an HSA, you are responsible for reporting activity related to your account to the IRS and your state revenue department when filing your federal and state income tax returns. There are three IRS tax-reporting forms you will need – IRS Form 5498-SA, IRS Form 1099-SA and IRS Form 8899.

The first two forms report the HSA contributions you made (IRS Form 5498-SA) and the distributions you received (IRS Form 1099-SA) during the preceding calendar year. Typically, you will receive these forms by the end of January of the next calendar year; you also can print out these forms at any time from the HSA administrator’s web site. **Note:** Contributions made after the end of a calendar year but before April 15 of the next year – will be reported on an updated IRS Form 5498-SA issued in May.

Using this information and the additional account information available to you online, you will need to complete IRS Form 8899 and attach it to your IRS Form 1040 when filing your annual federal income tax return. **Note:** To print a copy of IRS Form 8899, go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

For details about federal HSA tax reporting requirements, visit the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or see a professional tax advisor. Be sure to remind your tax preparer that you are participating in an HSA.

Ineligible Health Care Services

You cannot use a Health Savings Account to pay:

- Expenses incurred before your enrollment in a Health Savings Account begins
- Expenses otherwise paid or reimbursed by insurance, a third party, another employer, Medicare or any other federal or state program
- Expenses not eligible for a federal income tax deduction – for example, generally not directed or prescribed by a physician or directly related to illness or injury
- Expenses taken as a federal income tax deduction, and
- Premiums for group coverage, such as another employer plan or your spouse’s employer plan.

A more complete list of qualified and ineligible health care expenses is available at the PayFlex website – [https://www.healthhub.com](https://www.healthhub.com) – or you can obtain a copy of *IRS Publication 502: Medical and Dental Expenses* from the IRS website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).
Participation While On a Leave of Absence
If you are on a:

- **Paid leave** – you may continue to make contributions to your Health Savings Account through automatic payroll deductions.
- **Unpaid medical leave** – you may make contributions to your Health Savings Account through Benefits Billing.
- **Unpaid non-medical leave** – your HSA account will be temporarily turned off until you return to work.

You may continue to pay qualified health care expenses from your Health Savings Account.

Participation While On Disability
If you are disabled and receiving:

- **Extended Sick Time benefits** – your contributions to your Health Savings Account will be deducted on a pre-tax basis.
- **Long Term Disability benefits** – you can make monthly contributions to your Health Savings Account by sending a check to Benefits Billing.

**Note:** Your participation in your Health Savings Account may continue for up to a maximum of two years while receiving Extended Sick Time and Long Term Disability benefits.

Participation When You Retire
If you retire from University employment, you will not be able to make any further contributions to your Health Savings Account.

You may continue to pay qualified health care expenses from your Health Savings Account.

Participation Upon Termination of Employment
If your University employment terminates and you don’t enroll in another consumer-driven health plan (like the Value PPO health option), you may:

- **Keep your HSA open with the current HSA administrator.** Although you will no longer be able to make contributions to the HSA, your account will continue to earn interest and you can withdraw funds to pay for qualified health care expenses. **Note:** A monthly account maintenance fee will apply if no longer making contributions through University payroll deductions.
- **Transfer your HSA balance to a new HSA administrator.** No taxes or tax penalties will apply to this transfer.
- **Close your HSA.** You will receive a distribution of your Health Savings Account balance and may be subject to income tax and tax penalties.

Participation Upon Your Death
Your Health Savings Account balance will be available to your surviving spouse (or to your estate, if you have no surviving spouse at the time of your death).
4 Disability Benefits

If you are an eligible Northwestern University employee and you have a medically disabling condition lasting longer than six months, you may be approved to receive continuing income benefits from the University’s Long Term Disability Plan.

The plan offers two levels of benefit coverage:

- **50% Core Benefit** – continuing income equal to 50% of your regular base wages/salary, up to a maximum monthly benefit of $11,500.

- **10% Buy-Up Benefit** – continuing income equal to an additional 10% of your regular base wages/salary (for a total of 60%), up to a maximum monthly benefit (core and buy-up coverage combined) of $13,800.

Core benefit coverage is automatic and full paid by the University; this is your default coverage. You may elect to enroll in the optional buy-up benefit coverage; you will pay the cost of this additional coverage. **Note:** If you elect the buy-up benefit coverage, you may receive additional benefits from other sources – including Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) – providing you continuing income equal to as much as 70% of your regular base wages/salary.

**Note:** To receive LTD benefits, you must be under the regular care of a physician.

**Important!** Some states require contact information and certain notices be provided to participants in this plan. This information is contained in the Certificate of Coverage for the plan.

This plan is administered by the Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company.

For details about key plan features – including premiums for buy-up benefit coverage – see the individual plan highlights, the certificate of coverage and other information available at Disability Plans. For more information about premiums and what they’re based on, see Contributions in this handbook.
Long Term Disability

As a benefits-eligible employee, you have automatic 50% Core Benefit LTD coverage provided by Northwestern University. You may purchase additional coverage for yourself through the 10% Buy-Up Benefit.

Any benefit you may be entitled to receive under this plan is subject to reduction if you are eligible to receive disability income from other sources (see Other Income Benefits).

The University pays the full cost of your 50% core benefit coverage. You pay the cost of additional 10% buy-up benefit coverage, based on low group insurance rates.

50% Core Benefit
This part of the plan provides a continuing income benefit equal to 50% of your pre-disability earnings, up to a maximum monthly benefit of $11,500.

Your pre-disability earnings is your contracted annual rate of pay from Northwestern University divided by the number of pay periods occurring in the pay cycle established by you and the University prior to your date of disability. So, pre-disability earnings for:

- **Faculty** – means your contracted annual rate of pay from the University in effect prior to your date of disability divided by 12. This does not include summer salary, honoraria or consulting fees.
- **Hourly employees** – means your bi-weekly scheduled hours multiplied by your hourly rate of pay from the University in effect prior to your date of disability and then multiplied by 26.1 (there are 26.1 bi-weekly pay periods in a year) divided by 12. This does not include overtime.
- **All other employees** – means your contracted annual rate of pay from the University in effect prior to your date of disability divided by 12. This does not include overtime, summer salary or bonus payments.

10% Buy-Up Benefit
This part of the plan provides an additional continuing income benefit equal to 10% of your regular base wages/salary (total of 60%), up to a maximum monthly benefit of $13,800 from your core and buy-up benefit coverage combined.

Important! If you opt-out of buy-up benefit coverage when first eligible – and you subsequently elect this coverage – you will be required to provide evidence of insurability (EOI) that is satisfactory to Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company before your buy-up benefit coverage will take effect. EOI may include a completed and signed application, a medical examination, a statement from your attending physician and any additional information Hartford may require.

The University requires faculty and staff who apply for the LTD benefit to also apply for Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). The Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company will coordinate the University’s LTD benefit payments with SSDI benefit payments.
How Long LTD Benefits Will Be Paid

Once monthly LTD benefit payments begin, you will continue to receive these monthly benefit payments as long as you remain disabled, up to your Social Security Normal Retirement Age or for a specified number of months depending upon your age at the time your disability begins (see table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your disability begins…</th>
<th>LTD benefit payments will continue to…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before age 63</td>
<td>Your Social Security Normal Retirement Age or for up to 42 months, if greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At age 63</td>
<td>Your Social Security Normal Retirement Age or for up to 36 months, if greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At age 64</td>
<td>30 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At age 65</td>
<td>24 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At age 66</td>
<td>21 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At age 67</td>
<td>18 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At age 68 or older</td>
<td>15 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At age 69 or older</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Social Security Normal Retirement Age

Your Social Security Normal Retirement Age is based on your year of birth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you were born in…</th>
<th>Your Social Security Normal Retirement Age is…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1937 or before</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>65 + 2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>65 + 4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>65 + 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>65 + 8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>65 + 10 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943 through 1954</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>66 + 2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>66 + 4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>66 + 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>66 + 8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>66 + 10 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960 or after</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What It Means to Have a Disability
During the elimination period and the following 24 months, disability means you are unable to perform one or more of the essential duties of your occupation and, as a result, your currently monthly earnings are less than 80% of your indexed pre-disability earnings. Thereafter, disability means you cannot perform some of the essential duties of any occupation for which you are qualified by education, training or experience and you cannot earn more than 60% of your pre-disability earnings.

Elimination period means the longer of the number of consecutive days at the beginning of any one period of disability, which must elapse before benefits are payable or the expiration of any University-sponsored extended sick time benefits or salary continuation program, excluding benefits required by state law.

Note: If you become disabled, satisfy the 180-day elimination period and are approved for LTD benefits, the premiums you pay for buy-up benefit coverage will be waived during your disability.

Minimum Benefit
The minimum monthly benefit payable under this plan is $100 or 10% of the benefit based on monthly income loss (the difference between your pre-disability earnings and your current monthly earnings) before the deduction of other income benefits, whichever is greater.

Income Tax Liability
Because the University pays the full cost your core LTD coverage, benefit payments from this portion of the plan are subject to federal and — if any — state and local taxes.

Note: To request federal income tax withholding, you will need to submit a W-4S Form.

Because you pay the full cost of your buy-up LTD coverage with after-tax payroll contributions, this portion of your monthly LTD benefit may not be subject to income tax. For information on any taxes that may be associated with this benefit, call The Hartford.

Return to Work Incentive
If you remain disabled after the elimination period — but work while disabled — your monthly benefit will be recalculated for a period of up to 24 consecutive months, as follows:

- Your pre-disability earnings will be multiplied by the benefit percentage.
- The result will be compared with the maximum benefit.
- Other income benefits will be deducted from the lesser amount.

Current monthly earnings will not be used to reduce your monthly benefit. However, if the sum of your monthly benefit and your currently monthly earnings exceeds 100% of your pre-disability earnings, your monthly benefit will be reduced by the amount of the excess.
The 24-consecutive month period will start on the day you first start work or the end of your elimination period, whichever is later.

When Your LTD Benefit Payments Will End
Monthly benefit payments from this plan will end the last day benefits are payable based on your age at the time your disability began (see How Long LTD Benefits Will Be Paid) or, if sooner, the date:

- You are no longer disabled
- You fail to provide proof of loss
- You are no longer under the regular care of a physician
- You refuse a request from Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company to undergo an examination by a physician or other qualified health professional
- You die
- You refuse to receive recommended treatment that is generally acknowledged by physicians to cure, correct or limit your disabling condition
- Your current monthly earnings exceed:
  - 80% of your indexed pre-disability earnings if you are receiving benefits for being disabled from your occupation, or
  - 60% of your indexed pre-disability earnings if you are receiving benefits for being disabled from any occupation
- You refuse to participate in a rehabilitation program or refuse to cooperate with or try:
  - Modifications made to the work site or job process – or adaptive equipment or devices – designed to accommodate your identified medical limitations to enable you to perform the essential duties of your occupation, or
  - Modifications made to the work site or job process – or adaptive equipment or devices – designed to accommodate your identified medical limitations to enable you to perform the essential duties of any occupation.

**Note:** A qualified physician or other medical professional must agree that such modifications, rehabilitation program or adaptive equipment accommodate your medical limitation.

*Indexed pre-disability earnings* are your pre-disability earnings, adjusted annually by adding 10% or the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), whichever is less.

Recurrent Disability
If you return to work as an active employee after fulfilling the elimination period and then are disabled again with six months due to the same or a related cause, the prior period of disability and the recurrence will be considered one period of disability. If you return to work for a period of six months or more, any recurrence of disability will be treated as a new disability and will be subject to a new elimination period and new maximum duration of benefits.
Note: Periods of recovery during an elimination period will not interrupt the elimination period if the number of days you return to active employment are less than half the number of days of your elimination period; they will also not count toward the elimination period.
Other Income Benefits

Your monthly LTD benefit from this plan will be reduced by the amount of any benefit for loss of income you or your family are entitled to receive as a result of a disability for which you are claiming benefits under this plan. This includes any benefits for which you or your family are eligible -- or that are paid to you, your family or a third party on your behalf – based on any:

- Temporary, permanent disability or impairment benefits payable under a Workers’ Compensation Law, the Jones Act, occupational disease law, similar law or substitutes or exchanges for such benefits
- Governmental law or program that provides disability or unemployment benefits as a result of your job with the University
- Plan or arrangement of coverage, whether insured or not, which is received from the University as a result of employment or association with the University or which is the result of membership in or association with any group, association, union or other organization
- Mandatory “no fault” automobile insurance plan
- Disability benefits payable under:
  - The United States Social Security Act or alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government
  - The Railroad Retirement Act
  - The Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Old Age Security Act, the Quebec Pension Plan or any provincial pension or disability plan, or
  - Similar plan or act
- Disability benefit from the Department of Veterans Affairs or any other foreign or domestic governmental agency that:
  - Begins after you become disabled, or
  - You were receiving before becoming disabled (but only as to the amount of any increase in the benefit attributable to your disability)
- Disability benefit payments under a University-sponsored retirement plan
- Portion of a settlement or judgment, minus associated costs, of a lawsuit that represents or compensates for your loss of earnings
- Retirement benefit from a retirement plan that is wholly or partially funded by employer contributions, unless you were receiving the benefit prior to becoming disabled or you immediately transfer the payment to another plan qualified by the IRS for the funding of a future retirement.

If you receive payment of any other income benefits in a lump sum or settlement, you must provide satisfactory proof to Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company of the amount attributed to loss of income and the period of time covered by the lump sum or settlement.
### Workplace Modification Benefit

If a workplace modification is required to enable you to return to work as an active employee, Hartford will reimburse the University the cost of reasonable workplace modifications. You will qualify for this benefit if:

- Your disability is covered by the plan
- The University agrees to make the modifications to your workplace, and
- Hartford approves, in writing, any proposed workplace modifications.

The maximum amount that will be reimbursed for workplace modification is equal to the plan's maximum monthly benefit.

### Ability Assist

If you're disabled and receiving benefits under this plan, you will be eligible to participate in the Ability Assist program, offered through ComPsych. This program offers up to three face-to-face sessions per incident with a professional ComPsych counselor plus unlimited telephone and web access to ComPsych resources.

Ability Assist counseling services can help you address:
- Emotional and work/life concerns
- Legal issues, and
- Financial planning issues.

### Family Care Credit

If you're disabled and receiving benefits under this plan and need to incur expenses for family care services in order to participate in a rehabilitation program, the cost of these family care services will be deducted from the earnings you receive from your rehabilitative employment, subject to the following limitations:

- The family care services are for the care or supervision of your child(ren) under the age of 13 or for a member of your household who is mentally or physically handicapped and dependent on you for support.
- The maximum monthly deduction allowed for each qualifying child or family member is $350 during the first 12 months of rehabilitation and $175 thereafter (but in no event will be greater than your monthly earnings).
- The maximum amount you may receive in family care credits in a year is $2,500.

**Important!** The family care credit will be reduced proportionately for periods of less than a month. Family care expenses must be documented by a receipt from the caregiver. No family care credit will be provided for services performed by a relative. Eligibility for this credit will end when you are no longer in a rehabilitation program or you have received a family credit for 24 months, whichever occurs first.
When LTD Benefits Will Not Be Paid
LTD benefits will not be paid for any disability that is caused by:
- War or act of war – declared or undeclared
- Commission of – or attempt to commit – a felony
- Being engaged in an illegal occupation, or
- Intentionally self-inflicted injury.

If you are receiving or are eligible to receive benefits for a disability under a prior disability plan sponsored by the University and that plan was discontinued prior to the date this current plan took effect, no benefits from this current plan will be paid.

In addition, no benefits will be paid under this plan for a disability that results from a pre-existing condition unless:
- You have not received medical care for the condition for 12 consecutive months while covered under this plan, or
- You have been continuously insured under this plan for 12 consecutive months.

A **pre-existing condition** is any accidental bodily injury, sickness, mental illness, pregnancy or episode of substance abuse – or any manifestations, symptoms, findings or aggravations related to or resulting from such accidental bodily injury, sickness, mental illness, pregnancy or episode of substance abuse – for which you received medical care during the six months prior to the effective date of your coverage (or the effective date of your change in coverage) under this plan.

Coverage While On a Leave of Absence
If you are on a Family Medical Leave, your coverage may be continued for up to 12 weeks (26 weeks if you qualify for family military leave, or longer if required by other applicable law).

**Note:** If the leave terminates prior to the agreed upon date, your continuing coverage will end immediately.

Coverage Upon Termination of Employment
Your coverage under this plan will end on the date your University employment terminates.

Coverage When You Retire
Your coverage under this plan will end on the date you retire from University employment.

Coverage Upon Your Death
Your coverage under this plan will end on the date of your death.
5 Life & Other Insurance Plans

The University’s life insurance benefits provide valuable financial protection through three types of insurance – life, long-term care and business travel.

Life Insurance
You have four types of life insurance available to you:

- **Basic Term Life Insurance** – automatic term life insurance coverage for you.
- **Supplemental Term Life Insurance** – optional term life insurance coverage for you.
- **Spouse Term Life Insurance** – optional term life insurance coverage for your spouse or partner.
- **Child Term Life Insurance** – optional term life insurance coverage for your eligible child(ren).

These plans include an **Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance** feature that will pay benefits in the event a covered individual experiences loss of life, limb, sight or hearing, becomes paralyzed or suffers certain other losses as the result of an accident.

While Northwestern University administers these insurance plans, the insurance coverage is provided through Dearborn National.

Long Term Care Insurance
Optional **Long Term Care Insurance** is designed to protect you and your family against the potentially catastrophic costs of long-term care in a nursing facility or adult day care center as well as the cost of home health services. You pay the full cost of this coverage.

While Northwestern University administers this insurance plan, the insurance coverage is provided through CNA.

Business Travel Insurance
**Business Travel Insurance** is designed to provide eligible faculty and staff with accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) coverage in the event of an accident while traveling on University business. The University pays the full cost of this coverage.

While Northwestern University administers this insurance plan, the insurance coverage is provided through Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company.

---

For details about key plan features – including premiums – see the individual [plan highlights](#) and the certificate of coverage at [Life & Other Insurance Plans](#). For more information about premiums and what they're based on, see [Contributions](#) in this handbook.
Life Insurance

As a benefits-eligible employee, you have automatic Basic Term Life Insurance coverage and you may choose optional coverage for yourself through Supplemental Term Life Insurance. You also may choose optional coverage for your spouse and your eligible child(ren) through Spouse Term Life Insurance and Child Term Life Insurance, respectively.

The University pays the full cost of your automatic Basic Term Life Insurance coverage. You pay the cost of any optional Supplemental Term Life Insurance, Spouse Term Life Insurance and/or Child Term Life Insurance you elect, based on low group insurance rates.

Guaranteed Coverage/Evidence of Insurability

If you enroll yourself or your eligible family members in life insurance coverage within 31 days of your initial eligibility date, you will be entitled to guaranteed coverage – without evidence of insurability – of up to:

- $250,000 in automatic Basic Term Life Insurance for yourself
- 3 times your annual base salary up to $1 million in optional Supplemental Term Life Insurance for yourself
- $30,000 in optional Spouse Term Life Insurance for your spouse or partner, and
- $25,000 in optional Child Term Life Insurance for each eligible child.

If you initially elect optional coverage in excess of these limits – or increase coverage during a subsequent annual enrollment – the additional coverage will be subject to evidence of insurability. Evidence of insurability also will apply if:

- You voluntarily cancel your insurance and choose to reapply at a later date
- Your annual base salary increases, resulting in an increase in your Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage of more than $300,000 and your new coverage amount is in excess of $1 million, or
- You enroll for additional coverage that is greater than:
  - Your current Supplemental, Spouse and/or Child Term Life Insurance coverage during an annual Open Enrollment
  - The next higher coverage option under Supplemental Term Life Insurance or the guaranteed coverage amount for Spouse Term Life Insurance due to a change in family status.

Evidence of insurability means a statement of your medical history provided on an Evidence of Insurability form. Any increase in coverage beyond the guaranteed coverage limits will not take effect until Dearborn National approves your evidence of insurability.

Basic Term Life Insurance

You choose the amount of Basic Term Life Insurance you want – two-and-a-half times your annual base salary up to a maximum coverage amount of:

- $250,000, or
- $50,000.
Note: Coverage amounts over $50,000 are subject to imputed income; the premium cost that applies to these coverage amounts will be included as taxable income on your annual Form W-2 for tax reporting purposes.

The minimum annual salary required for Basic Term Life Insurance is $1,000; if your annual salary is less than $1,000, you are not eligible for this coverage. Based on this requirement, the minimum Basic Term Life Insurance coverage amount is $2,500.

This automatic coverage will pay your beneficiary(ies) a life insurance benefit upon your death equal to the amount of coverage you choose.

For purposes of determining your life insurance coverage, annual base salary is the University salary you are receiving on an annual basis as of September 1 of the preceding year (or, if newly hired, your new hire salary). Your annual base salary does not include any bonus payments, honoraria, summer salary or overtime pay you may receive. **Note:** If you are paid on a bi-weekly basis, the benefits base amount is your bi-weekly scheduled hours multiplied by your hourly rate and multiplied by 26.1 (because there are 26.1 bi-weekly pay periods in a calendar year).

The University pays the full cost of your Basic Term Life Insurance coverage.

**Adjustments in Coverage**

Your Basic Term Life Insurance coverage amount will increase or decrease each year – effective January 1 – based on your annual base salary as of September 1 in the prior year and your age as of December 31 of the current year. Also, if your employee classification changes from full-time to part-time – or vice versa – your Basic Term Life Insurance coverage amount will change based on your new salary.

Your Basic Term Life Insurance coverage will be reduced when you reach age 65 and again when you reach age 70 to:

- 65% of the coverage amount in effect on January 1 of the year in which you reach age 65.
- 50% of the coverage amount in effect on January 1 of the year in which you reach age 70.

These reductions – which will also apply to your Basic AD&D Insurance coverage – will take effect on January 1 of the years in which you reach ages 65 and 70, respectively.
Naming Your Beneficiary(ies)
Your beneficiary is the person (or persons) who will receive your Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance benefits if you die.

You can name anyone you want as your beneficiary(ies) – and designate as many people as beneficiary(ies) as you wish – for your Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance. (Note: You may not name Northwestern University as a beneficiary.) You must specify the percentage of the benefit to be paid to each beneficiary (up to a maximum of 100% for all allocations).

You are automatically the beneficiary for payment of any Spouse Term Life Insurance or Child Term Life Insurance coverage you elect.

A primary beneficiary is someone you designate as the first to receive the proceeds of your life insurance policy; a contingent beneficiary is someone you designate to receive the benefit if a primary beneficiary dies before you do. If you don’t want to name a person or entity as your beneficiary, you can name your own estate. The proceeds will then be distributed with your other assets as specified in your will. Before naming your estate as beneficiary, however, you should discuss your decision with a legal or tax advisor. Note: A change of beneficiary in your will does not override the beneficiary designation(s) you make on your life insurance policy.

Important! If you do not name a beneficiary – or if your beneficiary dies before you – any benefits from Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance in effect at the time of your death will be paid to the first surviving class of the classes listed below:

- Your spouse or partner
- Your natural or adopted child(ren)
- Your parents
- Your brothers and sisters
- Your estate.

If you name a minor as a beneficiary, you should also appoint a guardian in your will or use a trust. If you don’t, the probate court will appoint a guardian for the minor child.

You may change your beneficiary designation(s) at any time using the FASIS Self Service Portal at https://nupa.northwestern.edu.

Supplemental Term Life Insurance
You choose the amount of coverage you want from one to five times your annual salary (up to maximum of $2,000,000). You pay the full cost of the coverage you elect; premiums vary based on your age (see Contributions). Note: Coverage is subject to approval by Dearborn National, which may require Evidence of Insurability, lab tests, copies of medical records and/or a physician’s statement.

This voluntary coverage will pay your beneficiary(ies) a life insurance benefit upon your death – in addition to your Basic Term Life Insurance – equal to the amount of coverage you choose. Note: In general, this benefit will not be payable if you die as the result of suicide or attempted suicide within two years from the original effective
date of this coverage (or the effective date of any subsequent increase in coverage). For more details, refer to the Certificate of Coverage.

Adjustments in Coverage
Your Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage amount will increase or decrease each year – effective January 1 – based on your annual base salary as of September 1 in the prior year and your age as of December 31 of the current year. Also, if your employee classification changes from full-time to part-time – or vice versa – your Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage amount will change based on your new salary; this change will take effect the same date as your new salary.

Accelerated Death Benefit
If you are diagnosed with a terminal illness with a life expectancy of 24 months or less, you may request an accelerated death benefit payment. This payment can equal up to 75% of your Basic Term Life Insurance benefit and, if you have elected this optional coverage, your Supplemental Term Life Insurance benefit combined. This benefit cannot be more than $250,000 if you have only Basic Term Life Insurance or $1,000,000 if you have both Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance.

Note: This payment option will not be payable if your terminal condition is the result of attempted suicide or an intentionally self-inflicted injury, and is not available if your term life insurance is less than the minimum payment allowed under this plan ($7,500), your life insurance benefit has been assigned or your life insurance benefit is payable to an irrevocable beneficiary. If you elect to port your life insurance coverage – as described in Portability of Coverage – this payment option will no longer be available to you.

For more information – including instructions for how to apply for this form of benefit payment – call the Benefits Division at 847-491-7513.
Loss of Use Benefit

If you or a covered spouse or child experience permanent, total and irreversible paralysis of a limb – or irrecoverable loss of speech or hearing in both ears – as the result of an accidental injury you may be eligible to receive a loss of use benefit. To qualify for this benefit, the loss must:

- Occur within one year of the accident, and
- Be the direct result of the accident.

The loss of use benefit will be based on the injured party’s coverage amount and the nature of the loss, as outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For loss of use of…</th>
<th>Benefit will be…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both arms and both legs (quadriplegia)</td>
<td>150% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both legs (paraplegia)</td>
<td>75% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both leg and arm on same side of body(hemiplegia)</td>
<td>75% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm or one leg (uniplegia)</td>
<td>50% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>50% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing in both ears</td>
<td>50% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a list of circumstances under which this AD&D benefit will not be paid, see Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance Benefits.

Spouse Term Life Insurance

You choose the amount of Spouse Term Life Insurance you want in $10,000 increments, up to a maximum of $500,000 (but not more than the sum of your total Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage combined). Coverage amounts greater than $30,000 are subject to approval by Dearborn National, which may require Evidence of Insurability, lab tests, copies of medical records and/or a physician’s statement.

Note: For purposes of Spouse Term Life Insurance coverage, the term “spouse” includes a civil union partner.

The voluntary coverage will pay you a life insurance benefit upon the death of your covered spouse or partner equal to the amount of coverage you choose.

You pay the full cost of the Spouse Term Life Insurance coverage you elect. The premiums you pay will be based on the amount of coverage you choose and your spouse’s age. For more information, see Contributions.

Child Term Life Insurance

You choose the amount of coverage you want in $5,000 increments up to a maximum of $25,000 per child (but not more than the sum of your total Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage combined). You pay the full cost of the coverage you elect; premiums are based on a fixed cost per $1,000 of coverage.
The voluntary coverage will pay you a life insurance benefit upon the death of a covered child equal to the amount of coverage you choose. You pay the full cost of the Child Term Life Insurance coverage you elect. The premiums you pay will be based on the amount of coverage you choose. For more information, see Contributions.

**Portability of Coverage**

If your Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage – or any portion of it – terminates, you may elect to “port” this coverage and have it continue in effect by paying premiums directly to Dearborn National. The same opportunity applies to any coverage you elect for your spouse under Spouse Term Life Insurance.

To qualify for the portability benefit:

- You must have been insured under your coverage prior to electing the portability benefit
- Your life and AD&D insurance – or a portion of it – must have been terminated for reasons other than sickness, injury or termination of the master policy
- You must be less than 80 years of age, and
- You must not have previously exercised your right to convert to an individual policy the coverage you wish to port. **Note:** You may subsequently convert any portion of your life insurance that you do not port.

You must submit an application to port your terminated coverage within 31 days after the date of termination.

The maximum coverage you can port is the amount of life and AD&D coverage in effect at the time you elect this portability benefit – but may not exceed five times your annual base salary or $1,000,000; this maximum applies separately to life and AD&D coverage. Any coverage you port for yourself can remain in effect until you reach age 80; any coverage you port for your spouse can remain in effect until your spouse reaches age 80.

The premiums for this coverage will be set by Dearborn National based on the amount of coverage you port and the rates then in effect based on your age and class of risk.

For details regarding portability of coverage, see the Certificate of Coverage.

**Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance**

All four types of term life insurance – Basic, Supplemental, Spouse and Child– include AD&D Insurance coverage. This coverage will provide a benefit in an amount up to the applicable life insurance if you, your covered spouse, partner or child experiences a loss of life, limb, sight or hearing, becomes paralyzed or suffers certain other losses as the result of an accident. In the event of your death due to the accident, any Basic and Supplemental AD&D Insurance benefit will be paid – in addition to any Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance benefit in effect at that time – to your designated beneficiary(ies).
This coverage will pay a benefit equal to all or part of the corresponding life insurance coverage amount – based on the nature of the loss – as outlined on the following page:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For loss of…</th>
<th>Benefit will be…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>100% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both hands or both feet</td>
<td>100% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entire sight in both eyes</td>
<td>100% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One hand and one foot</td>
<td>100% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One hand</td>
<td>50% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One foot</td>
<td>50% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entire sight in one eye</td>
<td>50% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thumb and index finger of same hand</td>
<td>25% of coverage amount</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Loss means actual and permanent severance of hand or foot through or above the wrist or ankle joint, entire and irrevocable loss of sight or complete severance of both thumb and index finger at or above the joints.

AD&D benefits – and “loss of use” benefits – will not be paid for any loss due to:
- Any disease or infirmity of mind or body, and any related medical or surgical treatment
- Any infection – except infection of an accidental injury
- Suicide or attempted suicide – while sane or insane
- Any intentionally self-inflicted injury
- Travel or flight in a non-commercial aircraft while a member of the crew, or while engaged in the operation of the aircraft or while giving or receiving training in such an aircraft
- Your being under the influence of any narcotic, hallucinogen, barbiturate, amphetamine, gas or fumes, poison or any other controlled substance – unless the influence was involuntary or unintentional
- Your being intoxicated
- Active participation in a riot.

The plan will not pay AD&D benefits for loss of life resulting from or caused by war or act of war if the cause of death occurs while you (or a covered member of your family) is serving in the military, naval or air forces of any country, combination of countries or international organization.

For details regarding circumstances under which AD&D and “loss of use” benefits will not be paid – as well as additional details about AD&D coverage – see the Certificate of Coverage.

**When Coverage Ends**

Your coverage will end on the earliest to occur of the following dates:
- The date on which the policy is terminated
- The effective date of any amendment to the policy which terminates coverage for your employee classification, or
- The end of the month in which you:
  - Are no longer in an eligible employee classification
  - Request termination of your coverage, or
  - Retire.

You may continue your coverage if you are no longer actively at work due to:
- **Disability** – until the end of the 24th month following the month in which the disability began.
- **Layoff** – until the end of 365 days after the layoff began.
- **Leave of absence** – until the end of the 12th month following the month in which the leave of absence began or the period of time in accordance with FMLA requirements. **Note:** If you qualify for a leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) – or any state family and medical leave law – your coverage will remain in effect for a period of up to the leave period permitted under FMLA or, if longer, up to the leave period permitted under any applicable state law. For more information about FMLA leave, see the [Certificate of Coverage](#).
- **Sabbatical** – until the end of the 24th month following the month in which the sabbatical began.
- **Military leave** – until the end of the 12th month following the month in which the military leave began.

This continuation of coverage will apply as long as any required premiums are paid when due, the policy remains in force and your coverage is not replaced with group life insurance provide by a new carrier.

You may be eligible to convert all or a portion of your Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage – and any Spouse and/or Child Term Life Insurance then in effect – to an individual policy; for details, see [Conversion of Coverage](#).
Additional Benefits
Under certain circumstances – as noted below – your AD&D coverage under Basic, Supplemental, Spouse and/or Child Term Life Insurance will pay a(an):

- **Seat Belt Benefit** – a benefit equal to 10% of your AD&D coverage amount (up to a maximum of $25,000) if you die as the result of an automobile accident and – at the time of the accident – you were wearing a seat belt.

- **Air Bag Benefit** – a benefit equal to 5% of your AD&D coverage amount (up to a maximum of $15,000) if you die as the result of an automobile accident and – at the time of the accident – you were sitting in a seat that was equipped with an air bag.

- **Repatriation Benefit** – a benefit equal to 2% of your AD&D coverage (up to a maximum of $5,000) toward the cost for preparation and transportation of your body to a mortuary if your accidental death occurs at least 75 miles from your principal residence.

- **Education Benefit** – a benefit to help pay the cost of education for your dependent child at a school of higher education after your death or the death of your covered spouse. This benefit will equal 5% of your Basic AD&D Insurance benefit (up to a maximum of $3,000 a year), payable for up to four years, plus 5% of your Supplemental AD&D Insurance benefit (up to a maximum of $10,000 a year), payable for up to four years.

- **Spouse Training Benefit** – a benefit payable after your accidental death to your surviving spouse who enrolls in a school of higher education for training, retraining or refreshing skills needed for employment. This benefit will equal $5,000 a year, payable for up to three years.

- **Day Care Benefit** – a benefit to help pay the cost of day care for a dependent child through age 12 at a legally licensed day care center after your death or the death of your covered spouse. This benefit will equal 3% of your Basic AD&D Insurance benefit (up to a maximum of $2,000 a year), payable for up to six years, plus 5% of your Supplemental AD&D Insurance benefit (up to a maximum of $10,000 a year), payable for up to six years.

- **Common Disaster Benefit** – a benefit payable if you and your covered spouse die as a result of injury in the same accident (or separate accidents that occur within a 24-hour period) and death occurs within 90 days of the accident. This feature will increase the benefit payable under your spouse’s AD&D coverage to the amount payable under your Basic and Supplemental AD&D coverage combined (up to a maximum increase of $150,000).

- **Public Conveyance Benefit** – a benefit payable to your beneficiary(ies) if you die as the result of an accident while traveling as a fare-paying passenger in a public, government-regulated conveyance (on land or water or in the air) that transports passengers for hire. This benefit will equal your Basic and Supplemental AD&D coverage combined (up to a maximum of $150,000).

- **Felonious Assault Benefit** – a benefit payable to your beneficiary(ies) if you die as the result of a felonious assault (including robbery, holdup or kidnapping) while on University business or while commuting to or from work. This benefit will equal your coverage amount up to a maximum of $25,000.

For details – including any limitations that may apply – refer to the [Certificate of Coverage](#).
Conversion of Coverage

You may apply to convert your life insurance coverage under Basic and Supplemental Term Life Insurance to an individual policy if this coverage – or any portion of it – ends because:

- Your University employment terminates
- You move into an ineligible employee classification
- You life insurance benefits under this plan cease, or
- The plan is amended making you ineligible for coverage.

Your covered family members also may apply to convert their life insurance coverage under Spouse or Child Term Life Insurance to an individual policy if their coverage ends because:

- Your University employment terminates
- You move into an ineligible employee classification
- You die
- A spouse is no longer eligible as the result of a divorce or dissolution of marriage
- A dependent child reaches the limited age under the plan, or
- A spouse or dependent child is no longer eligible, as defined by the plan.

In general, you may convert to an individual policy all or any portion of the coverage that was in effect on the date your coverage (or your dependent’s coverage) ended. If, however, your coverage ends because life insurance benefits under this plan cease or the plan is amended making you ineligible for coverage, the amount you may apply to convert to an individual policy will be limited to the life insurance in effect on the date your coverage ended minus any amount for which you became eligible under this or any other group policy within 31 days after the date your life insurance ended up to $10,000. In this case, your coverage will be eligible for conversion to an individual policy only if it had been in effect for at least five years. **Note:** This provision limiting the amount of coverage that may be converted also applies to a spouse or child who applies for conversion of their coverage to an individual policy.

An application to convert coverage to an individual policy must be submitted within 31 days after the date coverage under this plan ends. If the application is approved, the individual policy will take effect on the day following the 31-day period during which the application for conversion could be made. The individual policy will be a whole life policy; it will not include certain ancillary benefits (e.g., accelerated death benefit, AD&D benefits) that may be included under Basic, Supplemental, Spouse and/or Child Term Life Insurance. **Note:** If you or a covered family member dies before your individual coverage takes effect, the benefit payable is limited to the maximum coverage amount that could have been converted.

The minimum coverage that may be converted to an individual policy is $2,000. The premiums for this coverage will be set by Dearborn National based on the amount of coverage converted and the rates then in effect based on the insured’s age and class of risk.

For details regarding conversion of coverage, see the Certificate of Coverage.
Business Travel Insurance

This automatic coverage will pay:

- A life insurance benefit to your beneficiary(ies) if you die in an accident while traveling on University business. This benefit – equal to three times your annual base salary up to a maximum benefit of $500,000 (your “principal sum”) – will be paid in addition to any other University-sponsored life and AD&D insurance benefit.

- An AD&D insurance benefit to you if you suffer a loss of limb (including loss of ability to function because of incurable paralysis or stiffening), sight or hearing as the result of an accident while traveling on University business. This benefit – equal to 25% to 100% of your Business Travel Insurance coverage amount, based on the nature of the loss – will be paid in addition to any other University-sponsored AD&D insurance benefit.

For purposes of determining your Business Travel Insurance coverage, annual base salary – also called “basic annual earnings” – is the University salary you are receiving on an annual basis, on the day before the date of any loss. Your annual base salary does not include any bonus payments, honoraria, summer salary or overtime pay you may receive. Note: If you are still actively at work and covered by this plan, your principal sum will reduce to 50% when you reach age 75 and will reduce to 25% when you reach age 80.

The University pays the full cost of your Business Travel Insurance coverage.

Terms of Coverage

This coverage will apply to “any trip for University business” that requires you to travel away from your regular place of employment. The trip will:

- Begin when you leave your home or, if later, when you leave your place of regular employment, and

- End when you return to your home or, if sooner, when you return to your place of regular employment.

Any trip for University business means any travel authorized by or at the direction of the University to further the University’s business. It does not include everyday travel to and from work. However, personal deviations while on a trip for University business will be covered.

When flying in an aircraft, this coverage will apply only while riding as a passenger in:

- Any civilian aircraft that has a valid airworthiness certificate, is piloted by a person holding a valid Certificate of Competency for that type of aircraft and both certificates have been issued by the proper government agency of the country of origin of the pilot and the aircraft.

- Any transport aircraft operated by the Military Airlift Command (MAC) of the United States or by the similar air transport service of any country.
**Total Loss of Use Benefit**

If you experience incurable paralysis or stiffening of a limb as the result of an accidental injury, you may be eligible to receive a total loss of use benefit. To qualify for this benefit, the loss must:

- Occur within one year of the injury
- Continue for a period of 12 consecutive months after the onset
- Affect the entire arm or leg from the shoulder or hip, including the hand or foot attached to it, and
- Be confirmed by a proper medical authority as being continuous and permanent.

The total loss of use benefit will be all or part of your principal sum – based on the nature of the loss – as outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For total loss of use of…</th>
<th>Benefit will be…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both arms and legs</td>
<td>100% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both arms and one leg</td>
<td>75% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both legs and one arm</td>
<td>75% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both arms or legs</td>
<td>66.67% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm and one leg</td>
<td>66.67% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm or one leg</td>
<td>50% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Only one benefit (the larger) will be paid for more than one total loss of use resulting from any one accident. In no event will the total loss of use benefit exceed $500,000. The same limit applies to the total of all benefits you may receive for any one accident under this benefit, the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit and the Permanent Total Disability Benefit.

**Seat Belt Benefit**

This plan will pay an additional benefit equal to 10% of your principal sum if you die as the result of an automobile accident and – at the time of the accident – you were:

- A passenger in or driver of a four-wheel drive vehicle
- A police report establishes that you were wearing a seatbelt, and
- Accidental death benefits are payable for your death.

The total maximum benefit payable under this feature is $100,000.

This benefit will not be paid for a loss sustained while you are driving or riding in any four-wheel vehicle used in a race, in a speed or endurance test or for acrobatic or stunt driving, if you are not wearing a seat belt for any reason or if you are sharing a seat belt.
**Note**: Coverage includes getting into or out of the aircraft; it does not include riding as a pilot or crewmember.

This coverage will pay a benefit equal to all or part of your principal sum – based on the nature of the loss – as outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For loss of…</th>
<th>Benefit will be…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life²</td>
<td>100% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more members³</td>
<td>100% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech and hearing</td>
<td>100% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sight of both eyes</td>
<td>100% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One member³</td>
<td>50% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech or hearing</td>
<td>50% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thumb and index finger of same hand</td>
<td>25% of principal sum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Loss means actual severance of hand or foot through or above the wrist or ankle joints, entire and irrevocable loss of sight, speech or hearing, or actual severance of the thumb and index finger through or above the metacarpophalangeal joint.

2. If you are riding in a conveyance (e.g., an automobile, airplane or ship) that is involved in an accident and, as a result of the accident, the conveyance is wrecked, sinks or disappears and your body is not found within one year of the accident, this plan will pay to your beneficiary(ies) the benefit for loss of life.

3. Member means hand, foot or eye.

**Note**: The loss must result from a bodily injury caused solely by an accident that occurs while you are insured and the loss must occur within one year after the date of the accident. If more than one loss results from an accident, you will receive only the larger benefit. The maximum Business Travel Insurance benefit that will be paid for all losses due to one accident is $2,500,000.

If you are exposed to the elements due to an accident covered by this plan, you will receive a benefit under the terms of this plan.

---

The maximum Business Travel Insurance benefit that will be paid for all losses due to one accident is $2,500,000.
Travel Assistance Services
When traveling in a foreign country – or 100 miles or more from home – you are eligible for a wide array of medical and travel assistance services whether the trip is for business or pleasure. This benefit is available to you, your spouse and your unmarried child(ren) under age 20 (under age 26 if full-time student(s)).

These travel assistance services – available 24 hours a day through a trained, multilingual staff – include:
- Emergency evacuation
- Emergency payment/cash assistance
- Emergency translator and interpreter
- Locating legal services/bail bond
- Medical insurance assistance
- Missing baggage assistance
- Repatriation of remains
- Transportation for a family member or friend
- Passport and visa information
- Emergency card replacement
- Consulate and embassy information
- Health hazards advisory and inoculation requirements
- Emergency message services
- Emergency ticket replacement
- Hotel convalescence arrangements
- Locating medical care
- Medically necessary repatriation
- Prescription drug assistance
- Return of dependent children
- Vehicle return
- Travel locator services
- Weather information
- Case communications, and
- Currency exchange information.

The total of all services in connection with emergency evacuation, medically necessary repatriation, transportation of a family member or friend, return of dependent children and repatriation are subject to a limit of $100,000 per person per event.

Note: Travel assistance services are provided through On Call, LLC and are not part of the insurance policy administered by Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company. Reliance Standard Life is not responsible for the content of this program or the services provided (or not provided) by On Call and retains the right to discontinue offering these services at any time.
When Business Travel Insurance Benefits Will Not Be Paid

Business Travel Insurance benefits will not be paid for any loss due to:

- War or act of war – declared or undeclared
- Suicide or attempted suicide
- Self-inflicted injuries
- Sickness or disease, or diagnostic tests or treatment – except for an infection that occurs directly from an accidental cut or wound
- Myocardial infarction – heart attack
- Service in the armed forces of any country
- Committing or attempting to commit a felony
- Riding in an aircraft owned, leased or operated on behalf of Northwestern University (or any subsidiary or affiliate of the University) or by you or a member of your household
- An accident occurring while the aircraft is being used for training or instruction – unless coverage is agreed to in writing
- Flying that requires a special permit or waiver – unless coverage is agreed to in writing
- An accident occurring while the aircraft is used for aerial photography – unless coverage is agreed to in writing, or
- Driving or riding as a passenger in any automobile used in a race, speed or endurance test, or for acrobatic or stunt driving.

Coverage While On a Leave of Absence

This coverage will not be in effect while you are on a leave of absence (and, therefore, not actively at work).

Coverage While On Disability

This coverage will not be in effect while you are receiving University-sponsored Long Term Disability benefits (and, therefore, not actively at work).

Coverage Upon Termination of Employment

Upon termination of your University employment, your coverage under this plan ends.

Coverage When You Retire

Upon your retirement from University employment, your coverage under this plan ends.

Coverage Upon Your Death

Upon your death, your coverage under this plan ends.
6 Educational Assistance

The University’s educational assistance plans provide valuable financial assistance to
you if you are a full-time University employee and you have higher education
expenses for yourself, your spouse/partner and/or your dependent child(ren).

The University offers five educational assistance plans:

- **Employee Reduced Tuition Plan** – pays benefits toward the cost of undergraduate
  or graduate courses you take at Northwestern University – up to a maximum of
  $12,000 per calendar year.

- **Employee Portable Tuition Plan** – pays benefits toward the cost of tuition and
  eligible fees for any undergraduate or graduate job-related courses you take at an
  accredited college or university other than Northwestern University.

- **Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan** – pays benefits toward the cost of certificate
  courses taken at Northwestern University (SPS post baccalaureate programs are
  covered under the employee reduced tuition plan).

- **Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan** – pays benefits towards the cost of tuition for
  your spouse/partner, and your eligible dependent child(ren) enrolled in a
  Northwestern University undergraduate degree program or in the University’s
  School of Professional Studies.

- **Dependent Portable Tuition Plan** – pays benefits toward the cost of tuition and
  mandatory fees for your eligible dependent child(ren) enrolled in an
  undergraduate degree program at an accredited college or university other than
  Northwestern University.

**Note:** Certain eligibility guidelines, service requirements and benefit limits may apply,
as described in this summary.

These plans are administered by Northwestern University, which pays the full cost of
the benefits these plans provide.

---

**Eligibility for any of the University-sponsored educational assistance plans does not imply
Northwestern University admission, nor does it guarantee acceptance into any University program.**
Employee Reduced Tuition Plan

This plan is designed to provide financial assistance to you – if you are an eligible full-time Northwestern University employee – toward the cost of undergraduate or graduate courses you may take at the University.

The educational assistance benefits provided under this plan are based on:

- The course of study – courses taken through the School of Professional Studies vs. regular day-time courses, and
- The level of coursework – undergraduate vs. graduate (see table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course of Study</th>
<th>Benefit Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School of Professional Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Undergraduate courses</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Professional Development Programs</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Graduate courses</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Day Time Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- (Day Time) Undergraduate degree programs</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- (Day Time) Graduate degree programs</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Employee Reduced Tuition Plan benefit will be applied to the full amount of the applicable tuition. The Office of Student Accounts will post billing statements on CAESAR showing total tuition charges, educational assistance benefit amounts and the balance owed. You will then be responsible for the balance due.

**Note:** You will be subject to the rules and prerequisites of your school of attendance.

The maximum amount you can receive each calendar year in benefits from the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan is $12,000.

If You Work at Northwestern University Satellite Campus

If you are a full-time regular status employee and your customary work place is located more than 200 miles from Chicago this plan will provide educational assistance benefits toward the cost of undergraduate or graduate courses you take at an institution other than Northwestern University.

In this case, you will need to submit the Satellite Campus Tuition application with a copy of the institution's billing statement and proof of successful completion at the end of the term along with proof of payment. Upon approval of the application, the University will issue the benefit directly to you. **Note:** The amount granted in educational assistance will be the same percentages noted above for courses taken through the School of Professional Studies, but will not exceed the amount of the corresponding benefit that would apply if the course were taken at the University.
Maximum Benefit Amounts
The maximum amount you may receive in educational assistance benefits from this plan each calendar year is $12,000.

Applying for Benefits
To apply for educational assistance benefits from this plan, you must complete an Employee Reduced Tuition Plan Application and submit it to the Benefits Division.

You need to submit only one application form for each calendar year of study. However, if you change your school of study or change your level of study from undergraduate to graduate, you may need to submit a new application form at that time.

Note: You must have full-time employment status as of the first day of the term for which you are requesting an educational assistance benefit. If you lose eligibility to participate in this plan and you are currently enrolled in a course for which benefits from this plan have been approved, you may receive benefits through the end of the term of study in which your loss of eligibility occurs.

To receive Employee Reduced Tuition Plan benefits you must submit a completed application form no later than December 31st in the calendar year for which the benefit is being requested.

Taking Courses During Work Hours
It is your responsibility to arrange a class schedule that does not conflict with your regular work hours. If a course is available only during regular work hours, your supervisor will decide if your department or laboratory operational requirements permit your absence from work. Any work time missed for class and travel time must be made up.

Alternatively, you may use available unused vacation time. If you are a non-exempt employee (paid biweekly), you must arrange “make-up time” with your supervisor to ensure that no legal or contractual obligation for overtime premium pay is incurred.

In some situations, scheduled work hours may be reduced, with a corresponding reduction in pay. If your scheduled work hours are reduced to fewer than 37.5 hours per week (the minimum required to maintain full-time status), you will no longer be eligible to receive educational assistance benefits through this plan.
### Tax Considerations

This plan is subject to two sections of the Internal Revenue Code – Section 117 for undergraduate courses and Section 127 for graduate level courses. You can receive up to $5,250 a year in benefits from this plan each year tax free; any benefits you receive from this plan in excess of $5,250 a year will be treated as non-cash compensation and will be considered as taxable income for that year.

The benefits you receive from this plan must be added to your taxable gross income for purposes of computing and withholding federal income tax, state income tax and Medicare and Social Security taxes under the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA). While the first $5,250 you receive each year will not be subject to income tax withholding, any amount in excess of $5,250 will be. Additional tax withholding – based on the amount in excess of $5,250 – will be deducted from your pay over a three-month period (and will be itemized on your paystub).

The full amount of the benefits you receive from this plan will be included on your annual W-2 wage and salary statement under the section “Wages, Tips and Other Compensation.”

Legislation passed by Congress in 1997 created the opportunity for certain students or their parents to obtain a tax credit for tuition paid to attend a college or university. As a result, Northwestern University is required to file Form 1098-T by January 31 each year with the Internal Revenue Service. This form reports certain enrollment and identifying information for U.S. Resident Students for which the University has received payments for “Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses” in a tax year. The University is not required to file Form 1098-T for students who are Nonresident Aliens for U.S. income tax purposes.

Information about Form 1098-T is needed to determine eligibility for the Hope Scholarship Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 25A.

### When Employee Reduced Tuition Plan Benefits Will Not Be Paid

Benefits from this plan will not be paid for:

- **Non-credit enrollment** – except for courses audited through the School of Professional Studies and private (non-group) lessons in the School of Music’s Division of Preparatory and Community Music. **Note:** If you are auditing a course through the School of Professional Studies, you will be charged the regular School of Professional Studies per-course rate and will receive the corresponding benefit.

- **Extensions of registration** – beyond those normally required in each school or program.

- **Graduate school registration for 890-E03 or extensions of 890-E99.**

- **Courses taken as a full-time student** – regardless of the number of hours you may be employed by the University per day or week.

- **Courses taken during a prior calendar year.**

- **Courses taken during working hours** – see [Taking Courses During Work Hours](#).
Coverage While On a Leave of Absence
If you are on a:

- **Paid full-time leave** – You may continue to receive benefits from the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits. Your benefits will be based on your accumulated years of full-time service.

- **Unpaid leave** – You may receive Employee Reduced Tuition Plan benefits if the leave is due to a verifiable medical disability or the Provost or Executive Vice President, as appropriate, has determined that the leave is job-enhancing and that you will return to your previously-held position.

Coverage While On Disability
You may continue to receive benefits from the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits.

Coverage When You Retire
If you retire from University employment and meet specified age and service requirements (see table), you may continue to receive benefits from the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan.

For faculty members, retirement is the point at which one ceases to work full-time, not merely ends his/her employment at Northwestern University.

**Age and Service Requirements for Employee Reduced Tuition Plan Coverage in Retirement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at Retirement:</th>
<th>55</th>
<th>56</th>
<th>57</th>
<th>58</th>
<th>59</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>61</th>
<th>62</th>
<th>63</th>
<th>64</th>
<th>65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service (in years):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about your continuing participation in the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan after you retire, see Benefit Program Information for Retirees.

Coverage Upon Termination of Employment
You may continue to receive Employee Reduced Tuition Plan benefits through the end of the term of study in which the termination of your University employment occurs.

Coverage Upon Your Death
No benefits from the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan will be paid following your death unless your death occurs after you have completed a course of study but before you have received benefits toward the cost of that course.
Employee Portable Tuition Plan

This plan is designed to provide financial assistance to you – as a full-time Northwestern University employee – toward the cost of undergraduate and graduate job-related courses you take at any accredited college or university other than Northwestern University.

To be eligible to receive benefits from this plan, you must:
- Be a regular full-time employee of Northwestern University
- Have completed one full year of service prior to the beginning of the term, and
- Be on the University payroll at the beginning and completion of a course.

The maximum amount you may receive in benefits from this plan each calendar year is $5,250. These benefits may be used to reimburse tuition and eligible fees only for undergraduate or graduate courses you complete:
- That are job related
- At any accredited college or university in other than Northwestern University, and
- For which you receive a letter grade of “C” or higher – OR a letter grade of “P” (“Pass”) and for which you earn credit hours.

The benefits you receive from this plan are non-taxable income unless used in conjunction with benefits from the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan. The benefits you receive from this plan will count toward the $12,000 annual maximum that applies under the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan.

To receive benefits from the Employee Portable Tuition Plan you must submit a completed application form within 90 days after course completion.

Applying for Benefits

Before starting a degree program or enrolling in a job-related course, you should review University policy and procedures to confirm you are eligible to receive benefits from this plan. You should also obtain your supervisor’s approval to enroll in course(s); this will confirm the coursework is degree- or job-related.

Once you complete a course – again, with a letter grade of “C” or higher (or a letter grade of “P” for “Pass”), you must complete an Employee Portable Tuition Plan Benefit Application and submit it – along with a copy of your grade report, a copy of your supervisor’s approval, an itemized tuition bill clearly showing your tuition cost and fees for the course, a listing of all financial assistance you receive from other sources (for example, scholarships, grants or programs for educational funding) and proof of payment of tuition and fees – to the Benefits Division. Note: Scholarships and grants are subtracted from your out-of-pocket tuition and fees. You will be reimbursed via payroll.
When Employee Portable Tuition Benefits Will Not Be Paid

Benefits from this plan will not be paid for:

- Non-credit enrollment.
- Extensions of registration – beyond those normally required in each school or program.
- Courses taken as a full-time student – regardless of the number of hours you may be employed by the University per day or week.
- Courses taken during a prior calendar year.
- Courses taken during working hours – see Taking Courses During Work Hours.

Coverage While On a Leave of Absence

If you are on a:

- **Paid full-time leave** – You may continue to receive benefits from the Employee Portable Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits. Your benefits will be based on your accumulated years of full-time service.
- **Unpaid leave** – You may receive Employee Portable Tuition Plan benefits if the leave is due to a verifiable medical disability or the Provost or Executive Vice President, as appropriate, has determined that the leave is job-enhancing and that you will return to your previously-held position.

If you are on an unpaid leave of absence, the time you are on your leave will not count toward your years of accumulated continuous University service.

Coverage While On Disability

You may continue to receive benefits from the Employee Portable Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits.

Coverage Upon Termination of Employment

You may continue to receive Employee Portable Tuition Plan benefits through the end of the term of study in which the termination of your University employment occurs.

Coverage Upon Your Death

No benefits from the Employee Portable Tuition Plan will be paid following your death unless your death occurs after you have completed a course of study but before you have received benefits toward the cost of that course.
Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan

This plan is designed to provide financial assistance to you – as a full-time Northwestern University employee – toward the cost of short duration certificate program at Northwestern University (SPS post baccalaureate certificate programs are covered under the employee reduced tuition plan).

To be eligible to receive benefits from this plan, you must:

- Be a regular full-time employee
- Have completed one full year of service prior to the beginning of the term, and
- Be on the University payroll at the beginning and completion of a course.

The maximum amount you may receive in benefits from this plan each calendar year is $5,250. The benefit is limited to tuition and eligible fees only. This is non-taxable (unless it is used in conjunction with the Employee Reduced and/or Portable Tuition programs). The total maximum of all educational assistance benefits per employee is $12,000/calendar year, whereby any amount over $5,250 is considered taxable income per IRS rules and taxes will be withheld through Payroll.

Applying for Benefits

You should review policies and procedures to ensure eligibility prior to the start of the certificate program. You must obtain your supervisor’s approval and signature indicating that the program is job-related. Upon completion of the program you must obtain, complete and submit an Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan Benefit Application.

Your application must be signed by your supervisor and by you. You must also submit:

- A copy of any associated certificate showing completion
- An itemized bill clearly showing the fees for that course
- Any associated grants and/or scholarships, and
- Proof of payment.

You must indicate the amount of financial assistance received from other sources on the form. These are subtracted from your out-of-pocket tuition and fee expenses. The application must be submitted to the Benefits Division no later than 90 days after course completion. You will be reimbursed via payroll.

Coverage While On a Leave of Absence

If you are on a:

- **Paid full-time leave** – You may continue to receive benefits from the NU Certificate Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits. Your benefits will be based on your accumulated years of full-time service.
- **Unpaid leave** – You may receive the NU Certificate Tuition Plan benefits if the leave is due to a verifiable medical disability or the Provost or the Executive Vice
President, as appropriate, has determined that the leave is job-enhancing and that you will return to your previously-held position.

If you are on an unpaid leave of absence, the time you are on your leave will not count toward your years of accumulated continuous University service.

**Coverage While On Disability**
You may continue to receive benefits from the NU Certificate Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits.
Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan

This plan is designed to provide financial assistance to you – as a full-time Northwestern University employee – toward the cost of undergraduate courses taken by your spouse/partner and/or dependent child(ren) at the University.

The reduced tuition benefits provided under this plan are based on:
- Your continuous full-time University employment – as of the first day of classes for the term for which the benefit is requested, and/or
- The course of study – courses taken through the School of Professional Studies vs. regular daytime courses (see table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are enrolled in...</th>
<th>And you have continuous full-time University employment of at least...</th>
<th>The reduced tuition benefit you can receive is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>School of Professional Studies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Courses taken in Fall/Winter/Spring Term or during Summer Session</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Day Time Undergraduate Degree Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Faculty and Staff hired before January 1, 2000</td>
<td>15+ years</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Faculty and Staff hired on or after January 1, 2000</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reduced tuition benefit percentage will be applied to the Northwestern billed tuition. The Office of Student Accounts will post billing statements on CAESAR showing total tuition charges, the reduced tuition benefit and the balance owed. You will then be responsible for the balance due.

Benefits under this plan will be paid only for courses taken by individuals pursuing an undergraduate degree at Northwestern. This benefit is available to continuing and returning students. For more information – including current course and program offerings – contact the School of Professional Studies at sps.northwestern.edu.

To receive reduced tuition benefits under this plan you must submit a completed application form no later than December 31 of the calendar year for which the benefit is being requested.
Maximum Benefit Amounts
The maximum number of quarters for which the reduced tuition benefit will be paid for an eligible spouse/partner or dependent child is eight full-time academic semesters or 12 full-time academic quarters. They may pursue a portion of their undergraduate program at Northwestern University. In this case, the regular reduced tuition benefit for Northwestern University study may be applied. However, terms for which this benefit is received will coordinate with the Dependent Portable Tuition Plan benefit (for eligible dependent children only) such that benefits will be received for no more than eight full-time academic semesters or 12 full-time academic quarters.

Terms for which this benefit is received will coordinate with Dependent Portable Tuition Plan benefits to ensure that benefits are received for no more than eight full-time academic semesters or 12 full-time academic quarters.

Applying for Benefits
To apply for reduced tuition benefits from this plan, you must complete a Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan Benefit Application and submit it – along with a signed copy of your most recently filed IRS Form 1040 as proof of your family member’s dependency – to the Benefits Division.

Note: You must have full-time employment status as of the first day of the term for which you request a reduced tuition benefit. If you lose eligibility to participate in this plan and an eligible family member is currently enrolled in a course for which benefits from this plan have been approved, those benefits will be paid through the end of the term of study in which your loss of eligibility occurs.

If both you and your spouse/partner are full-time employees and have met the service requirement for reduced tuition benefits, only one parent may apply for the benefit for each eligible dependent child.

To receive Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan benefits, an eligible spouse/partner or dependent child must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program. The maximum number of quarters for which the reduced tuition benefit will be paid for an eligible spouse/partner or child is eight full-time academic semesters or 12 full-time academic quarters.
Tax Considerations
The benefits your spouse and dependent child(ren) receive are exempt from taxation and will not be included in the calculation of your taxable income for the year. On the other hand, the benefits your partner and/or your partner’s child(ren) receives will be considered income. However, if you have legally adopted your partner’s children, the benefits they receive will be exempt from taxation.

The full amount of the benefits you receive from this plan will be included on your annual W-2 wage and salary statement under the section “Wages, Tips and Other Compensation.”

Legislation passed by Congress in 1997 created the opportunity for certain students or their parents to obtain a tax credit for tuition paid to attend a college or university. As a result, Northwestern University is required to file IRS Form 1098-T by January 31 each year with the Internal Revenue Service. This form reports certain enrollment and identifying information for U.S. Resident Students for which the University has received payments for “Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses” in a tax year. The University is not required to file IRS Form 1098-T for students who are Nonresident Aliens for U.S. income tax purposes.

Information about IRS Form 1098-T is needed to determine eligibility for the Hope Scholarship Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 25A.

When Dependent Reduced Tuition Benefits Will Not Be Paid
Benefits from this plan will not be paid for:
- Students who are either not enrolled in a degree program or not working towards the requirements of a teaching certificate at Northwestern.
- Extensions of registration – beyond those normally required in each school or program.
- Graduate or professional study.
- High school students enrolled in University courses as a supplement to their high school curriculum – either as part of their college preparation or as part of the National High School Institute (“Cherub”) program. However, a high school student who has been admitted to a degree program in the University and is otherwise eligible for the benefit may receive the tuition reduction for courses taken the summer prior to his or her freshman year.
- Non-credit courses, seminars or programs in the summer session.

Coverage While On a Leave of Absence
If you are on a paid full-time leave you may continue to receive benefits from the Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits. Your benefits will be based on your accumulated years of full-time service.

Coverage While On Disability
You may continue to receive benefits from the Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits.
Coverage When You Retire
If you retire from University employment and meet specified age and service requirements (see table), you may continue to receive benefits from the Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan.

For faculty members, retirement is at the point at which one ceases to work full-time, not merely ends his/her employment at Northwestern University.

| Age and Service Requirements for Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan Coverage in Retirement |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Age at Retirement:              | 55  | 56  | 57  | 58  | 59  | 60  | 61  | 62  | 63  | 64  | 65  |
| Service (in years):             |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Full-Time                       | 10  | 10  | 10  | 9   | 8   | 7   | 6   | 5   | 4   | 3   | 2   |
| Part-Time                       | 10  | 10  | 10  | 10  | 10  | 9   | 8   | 7   | 6   | 2   |

For more information about your continuing participation in the Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan after you retire, see Beneficiary Program Information for Retirees.

Coverage Upon Termination of Employment
You may continue to receive Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan benefits through the end of the term of study in which the termination of your University employment occurs.

Coverage Upon Your Death
Your spouse/partner and child(ren) will continue to be eligible to receive benefits from this plan based on your years of continuous full-time University employment at the time of your death. This eligibility ends for the spouse or partner upon remarriage, or for a child upon adoption or until the child reaches age 26.
Dependent Portable Tuition Plan

This plan is designed to provide financial assistance to you – as a full-time Northwestern University employee – toward the cost of undergraduate courses taken by your dependent child(ren) at any U.S. accredited college or university other than Northwestern University.

The portable tuition benefits provided under this plan are based on:

- Your University hire date – whether your hire date was before January 1, 2000 or on or after that date, and
- Your continuous full-time University employment – as of the first day of classes for the term for which the benefit is requested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your employment with the University began…</th>
<th>And you have continuous full-time University employment of at least…</th>
<th>The portable tuition benefit you can receive for each eligible dependent child is…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On or after January 1, 2000</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Up to 50% of billed tuition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before January 1, 2000¹</td>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>Up to 50% of billed tuition OR 100% of billed tuition up to $5,616 per calendar year³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Based on your years of continuous full-time University employment, you may be able to choose between two or all three of these portable tuition benefits for a dependent child. Once you choose the 50% plan, it cannot be changed for that child. You may, however, choose one portable tuition benefit for one dependent child and a different plan for another dependent child.

² The portable tuition benefit percentage will be based on billed tuition and mandatory fees minus any financial aid, such as scholarships and grants.

³ The calendar year portable tuition benefit will be made available in term segments based on whether the college or university in question maintains a semester or quarter academic year; the $5,616 calendar year maximum breaks down to $2,808 per semester or $1,872 per quarter.

Note: The benefit amount received may not exceed the total amount due in tuition and mandatory fees.

Terms for which this benefit is received will coordinate with Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan benefits to ensure that benefits are received for no more than eight full-time academic semesters or 12 full-time academic quarters.

Maximum Benefit Amounts

The maximum number of quarters for which the Dependent Portable Tuition Plan benefit will be paid for a dependent child is eight full-time academic semesters or 12 full-time academic quarters.

An eligible dependent child may pursue a portion of his or her undergraduate degree program at the University and transfer earned credit to his or her primary institution. In this case, the regular Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan benefit for Northwestern University study may be applied, and the credits earned will be coordinated with the limits that apply under this plan.

The term limit provisions under this plan apply separately to each eligible family member.
Applying for Benefits
To apply for portable tuition benefits for an eligible dependent child, you must complete a Dependent Portable Tuition Plan Benefit Application and submit it – along with proof of your student’s eligibility, proof of full-time student status and an itemized bill showing the amount of tuition and fees due – to the Benefits Division.

If you are applying for benefits for more than one eligible dependent child, you must submit a separate application for each child. Your application(s) should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the date you will need the portable tuition check and no later than one year from the start date of the term for which the benefit is requested. For more information, see the instructions provided in Application Process.

In general, the only proof of a dependent child’s eligibility you need to provide is a federal tax return from the previous year on which the child is listed as a dependent. You will need to provide alternative forms of proof for a child who is not listed on your Form 1040 tax return.

To receive Dependent Portable Tuition benefits you MUST submit a completed application form within one year from the start date of the term for which the benefit is requested.

Note: You must have full-time employment status as of the first day of the term for which you request a dependent portable tuition benefit. If you lose eligibility to participate in this plan and an eligible dependent child is currently enrolled in a course for which benefits from this plan have been approved, you may receive benefits through the end of the term of study in which your loss of eligibility occurs.

If both you and your spouse/partner are full-time employees and have met the service requirement for dependent portable tuition benefits, only one parent may apply for the benefit for each eligible dependent child.

How Benefit is Paid
Once your application is approved, a Northwestern University check for the portable tuition benefit will be made payable to:

- The university or college – if you have not already paid the tuition and mandatory fees in full, or
- To you – if you have already paid the tuition and mandatory fees in full (and include proof of payment with your application).

You will receive the check by mail or you may be notified to pick up the check at the Benefits Division office. Checks will NOT be mailed directly to another university or college. At the time you pick up a check, you must present your Wildcard or other photographic identification.

Expenses which qualify for the portable tuition benefit are tuition and mandatory fees. Room, board and student health insurance expenses are ineligible expenses (see table on next page).
### Eligible Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Eligible Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Lab Fees</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Health Insurance Premium</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit Paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Billed Tuition: $9,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minus Scholarship: $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equals Net Tuition: $8,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>times Benefit Percentage: 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equals Dependent Portable Tuition Benefit: $4,106.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eligible dependent children receiving portable tuition benefits are subject to the rules and prerequisites of their school of attendance. To receive reduced tuition benefits, the dependent child must be enrolled in either an undergraduate degree program or working toward the requirements of a teaching certificate. The maximum number of quarters for which the reduced tuition benefit will be paid for an eligible dependent child is eight full-time academic semesters or 12 full-time academic quarters.

---

### When Dependent Portable Tuition Benefits Will Not Be Paid

Benefits from this plan will not be paid for:

- **Part-time enrollment** – if a dependent child's course load drops below full-time during a term (either 12 credit hours per semester or nine credit hours per quarter), you are responsible for repaying the Benefits Division the amount of benefit granted to that child for that term.

- **Extensions of registration** – any extension beyond those normally required.

- **Incidental expenses** – books, parking and room and board.

- **Non-credit enrollment** – the dependent child must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program.

- **Overage dependent child(ren)** – a child who reaches age 26 before the first day of the term for which the benefit is requested.

- **Dependent children of Contributed Service Faculty in the Medical School.**

- **Graduate or professional study.**

---

### Coverage While On a Leave of Absence

If you are on a:

- **Paid full-time leave** – You may continue to receive benefits from the Dependent Portable Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits. Your benefits will be based on your accumulated years of full-time service.

- **Unpaid leave** – You may receive Dependent Portable Tuition Plan benefits. Your benefits will be based on your accumulated years of full-time service.
If you are on an unpaid leave of absence, the time you are on your leave will not count toward your years of accumulated continuous University service.

**Coverage While On Disability**
You may continue to receive benefits from the Portable Tuition Plan as long as you continue to be eligible for University insurance benefits. Your eligible dependent child(ren) must have qualified for this benefit at the time you became disabled and continue to qualify for the duration of the time for which the benefit is requested.

**Coverage When You Retire**
If you retire from University employment and meet specified age and service requirements (see table), you may continue to receive benefits from the Dependent Portable Tuition Plan.

For faculty members, retirement is the point at which one ceases to work full-time, not merely ends his/her employment at Northwestern University.

| Age and Service Requirements for Dependent Portable Tuition Plan Coverage in Retirement |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Age at Retirement: | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 |
| Service (in years): | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Full-Time | | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Part-Time | | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 2 |

For more information about your continuing participation in the Dependent Portable Tuition Plan after you retire, see Benefit Program Information for Retirees.

**Coverage Upon Termination of Employment**
You may continue to receive Dependent Portable Tuition benefits through the end of the term of study in which the termination of your University employment occurs.

**Coverage Upon Your Death**
Your dependent child(ren) will continue to be eligible to receive benefits from this plan based on your years of continuous full-time University employment at the time of your death. This eligibility ends upon adoption or upon reaching age 26.
7 Other Information

This section provides the following information:

- Definitions of **important terms** that are used within this handbook. For many of these terms a definition is provided with their first reference within this handbook. This section provides an alphabetic listing of these terms – and others – for easy reference.

- Instructions and information you will need to file **claims and appeals** under the various health & welfare and educational assistance benefit plans described in this handbook.

- Information regarding **coordination of benefits** and **subrogation** guidelines that will apply if you or your covered family members are eligible to receive benefits from another plan or party, or as a result of a settlement, judgment or arbitration award from another insurance program or similar coverage.

- **Administrative information** for each plan, including plan sponsor, employer ID number, plan administrator, agent for service of legal process, as well as plan numbers, group numbers (where applicable), type of plan, plan year, Claims administrator, trustee (where applicable) and contributions.


This handbook is for informational purposes and is not intended as an offer of employment or to establish the terms and conditions of employment with Northwestern University in any way.
Important Terms

The terms defined here are used in this handbook. Definitions of additional terms are also available in plan-specific Certificates of Coverage.

**Accelerated Death Benefit**
A feature of your University-sponsored life insurance coverage that will provide payment of a portion of your Basic Term Life Insurance and, if elected, Supplemental Term Life Insurance in the event you are diagnosed with a terminal illness and a life-expectancy of 24 months or less. For more information, see Accelerated Death Benefit.

**Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance/AD&D Insurance**
AD&D coverage is included in all four types of University-sponsored term life insurance – Basic, Supplemental, Spouse and Child. This coverage provides a benefit in an amount up to the applicable life insurance amount if you – or your covered spouse, partner or child – experience a loss of life, limb, sight or hearing, become paralyzed or suffer certain other losses as the result of an accident. For more information, see Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance.

**After-Tax Contributions/Premiums**
Contributions or premiums deducted from your pay after your taxes are calculated. After-tax contributions or premiums have no impact on your taxable income.

**Annual Base Salary**
For purposes of determining your life insurance coverage, this is the University salary you are receiving on an annual basis as of September 1 of the preceding year (or, if newly hired, your new hire salary). Your annual base salary does not include any bonus payments, honoraria, summer salary or overtime pay you may receive. **Note:** If you are paid on a bi-weekly basis, the benefits base amount is your bi-weekly scheduled hours multiplied by your hourly rate and multiplied by 26.1 (because there are 26.1 bi-weekly pay period in a calendar year).

**Beneficiary**
The person (parent, spouse, child or other relative or friend) designated to receive life insurance benefits in the event of the death of the covered individual. You may also designate a trust as a beneficiary.

**Beneficiary Allocation**
This term refers to the method for distribution of a life insurance benefit to beneficiaries by a percent or dollar amount. The sum of the amount you allocate to each beneficiary (expressed as a percentage) must add up to 100%.

**Beneficiary Designation**
The individual(s) and/or trust you name to receive life insurance benefits in the event of your death.
Benefits Division
This University office – within the Office of Human Resources – oversees and administers the University-sponsored health & welfare, and educational assistance benefits described in this handbook. If you have any questions about this summary, you may contact the Benefits Division at 847-491-7513.

Benefits-Eligible Employee
This is a University employee who works in a benefits-eligible Employee Classification and otherwise meets all eligibility criteria for a benefit plan. Eligibility guidelines may vary from plan-to-plan. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility for a particular plan, see Eligibility or call the Benefits Division at 847-491-7513.

Certificate of Coverage
This is the legal document that governs the operation of a benefit plan.

Coinsurance
The percentage of your health care cost that you must pay after meeting the deductible or copayment. For example, a plan may cover 80% of the cost of a service and leave you responsible for 20% of the cost; the 20% you pay is your coinsurance.

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act/COBRA
The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 is a federal law that regulates the conditions and manner under which an employer can offer continuation of group health insurance to employees and their eligible family members whose coverage would otherwise end.

Contingent Beneficiary
An individual who will receive life insurance benefits only if the primary beneficiaries are deceased. For example, an individual who has a spouse and two children may designate benefits to be paid first to the spouse and then to the children if the spouse is deceased. The children are considered contingent beneficiaries. It is not mandatory to designate a contingent beneficiary, though it is recommended.

Conversion of Coverage
This term refers to the opportunity to convert your University-sponsored life insurance coverage from a University-sponsored group insurance plan to an individual policy. For more information, see Conversion of Coverage.

Copayment
The flat dollar amount that you pay at the time you receive health care services. For example, you may pay a $25 copayment for a physician’s visit. Copayments do not count toward your annual deductible. Health care copayments do count toward your out-of-pocket maximum.

Coverage Tier
The different categories or “tiers” defining the eligible family members to whom you wish to extend coverage under your University-sponsored health, dental or vision plans.

**Covered Services**
Specified services or supplies for which a health, dental or vision plan will provide benefits.

**Deductible**
The deductible is the dollar amount that you need to pay out-of-pocket before your health care plan begins to pay benefits. (Generally, the larger your deductible, the smaller your premium contribution.)

**Disabled or Disability**
Disabled or disability means you are prevented from performing one or more of the essential duties of your occupation during the elimination period, your occupation for the 24 months following the elimination period (and, as a result, your current monthly earnings are less than 80% of your indexed pre-disability earnings) and, after that, any occupation. Your disability must result from accidental bodily injury, sickness, mental illness, substance abuse or pregnancy.

**Employee Retirement Income Security Act/ERISA**
The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (as amended), which specifies certain rights for benefit plan participants and responsibilities for benefit plan “fiduciaries” (those responsible for the operation of a plan). ERISA also specifies guidelines participants may follow to enforce their rights.

**Evidence of Insurability**
A statement of your medical history provided on an Evidence of Insurability form. Any increase in Basic, Supplemental or Spouse Term Life Insurance coverage beyond the guaranteed coverage limits that apply under those three plans will not take effect until Dearborn National approves your evidence of insurability.

**Flexible Spending Account/FSA**
A tax advantaged account into which you make contributions to pay for eligible health or dependent care expenses, such as deductibles, copayments, and some health care services not covered by the health care plan. Northwestern offers three FSAs: a Health Care FSA, a Dependent Care FSA and, for participants in the Value PPO health plan, a Limited Use FSA (in place of the Health Care FSA).

**Genetic Nondiscrimination Act/GINA**
The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, which prohibits the use of genetic information in health insurance and employment. GINA prohibits group health plans and health insurers from denying coverage to a healthy individual or charging that person higher premiums based solely on a genetic predisposition to developing a disease in the future. The legislation also bars employers from using individuals' genetic information when making hiring, firing, job placement, or promotion decisions.
Guaranteed Coverage
This is the amount of life insurance coverage for which you are eligible without having to provide evidence of insurability.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act/HIPAA
The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 sets standards and guidelines which are designed to protect the security and privacy of personal health information. These standards and guidelines are also meant to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the nation's health care system by encouraging the widespread use of electronic data interchange in the U.S. health care system.

Health Maintenance Organization/HMO
A Health Maintenance Organization, or HMO, is a health plan that pays benefits only for health care services received from a network of physicians and hospital providers, and (except in the case of an emergency) only for services approved in advance by your Primary Care Physician (PCP).

Health Savings Account/HSA
A special investment account established by people who are enrolled in a high-deductible health care plan such as the Value PPO plan; it is used to pay for current and future medical expenses.

Hospice Care
A centrally administered program designed to provide for the physical, psychological and spiritual care of a dying person and his or her family. The goal of hospice care is to allow the dying process to proceed with minimum discomfort while maintaining dignity and quality of life.

Illinois Infertility Mandate
An Illinois law that requires insurance companies and fully-insured plans to provide coverage for infertility to employee groups of more than 25 members. The law does not apply to self-insured plans or to trusts or insurance policies written outside of Illinois. For details, see Illinois Infertility Mandate.

Imputed Income
Any University-paid Basic Life Insurance in excess of $50,000 will be treated as imputed income; the premium cost that applies to these coverage amounts will be included as taxable income on your annual Form W-2 for tax reporting purposes.

In-Network
Treatment and services received from a provider that is a member of the provider network offered through a University-sponsored health, dental or vision plan. The plans are designed to provide a higher level of benefits for in-network services than for treatment and services received out-of-network.
Leave of Absence/LOA
The University grants leaves of absence for medical care for oneself, family care, some personal reasons, and for military duty. With a leave of absence, you may under some circumstances temporarily leave a University position with an intention to return to active University employment and during the leave maintain a relationship with the University that provides access to certain benefits and does not break service. For more information, see Leaves of Absence.

Length of Stay Review
A feature of the Medical Services Advisory (MSA) Program which requires PPO health plan participants to get MSA approval for any extension of a hospital stay beyond the length of stay set upon completing the initial preadmission or emergency review. For details – including information about penalties that apply for not contacting the MSA (or not following the MSA’s recommendations), see Medical Services Advisory Program.

Limited Use FSA
This type of account is offered as an alternative to a Health Care FSA if you elect coverage under the Value PPO health plan; if you are enrolled in that plan you cannot participate in a Health Care FSA. Like a Health Care FSA, this type of account is designed to help you set aside tax-free dollars to pay your share of eligible expenses. Until you meet the Value PPO health plan’s annual deductible each year, you may use the account to reimburse only eligible dental and vision care expenses; once you meet the Value PPO’s annual deductible, however, you may use contributions in your Limited Use FSA to reimburse eligible health care expenses, too. For more information, see Limited Use FSA.

Long Term Care
Long term care is the help or supervision provided for someone with severe cognitive impairment or the inability to perform the activities of daily living. Services may be provided at home or in a facility and may be provided by a professional or informal caregiver such as a friend or family member. For more information, see Long Term Care Insurance.

Loss of Use Benefit
This benefit is paid under Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance coverage if you or a covered spouse or child experiences permanent, total and irreversible paralysis of a limb – or irrecoverable loss of speech or hearing in both ears – as the result of an accidental injury. For more information – including details regarding the circumstances under which this benefit will be paid – see Loss of Use Benefit.

Medical Services Advisory Program/MSA Program
A program under the Premier, Select and Value PPO health plans which requires that certain services be subject to preadmission and length of service review by Blue Cross BlueShield’s Office of the Medical Services Advisor. This program is designed to maximize the benefits you can receive through your PPO coverage. For details –
including information about penalties that apply for not contacting the MSA (or not following the MSA’s recommendations), see Medical Services Advisory Program.

**Network**
A group of doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies organized by a health care plan to provide health care services to covered participants. To get the maximum coverage for the lowest cost, you generally must use the plan’s network. (In a PPO, you have the option to use out-of-network providers, but you will usually pay more for these services.)

**Non-Urgent Pre-Service Claim**
A request for benefits or for a determination of the terms under which a benefit will be paid, in advance of a service being received. For example, the PPO health plans require you to obtain a preadmission review before a non-urgent hospital admission.

**Ombudsman**
This is a person who investigates and attempts to resolve complaints and problems.

**Out-of-Network**
Treatment and services received from a provider that is not a member of the provider network offered through a University-sponsored health, dental or vision plan. The plans are designed to provide a lower level of benefits for out-of-network services than for treatment and services received in-network.

**Out-of-Pocket Maximum**
The maximum amount that you pay out-of-pocket each year for health care services. This includes deductibles, coinsurance and health care copayments. Most health care plans have a yearly maximum for out-of-pocket expenses. Once you reach the maximum for the period, the plan pays 100% for any remaining covered health care expenses.

**Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**
The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 is a comprehensive health reform law that is designed to expand coverage, control health care costs and improve the health care delivery system. The law includes certain provisions that affect employer-sponsored benefit plans.

**Portability of Coverage**
This term refers to the opportunity to “port” your Basic and/or Supplemental Term Life Insurance coverage if this coverage – or any portion of it – terminates. If you elect to port this coverage, it will continue in effect as long as you pay the required premiums to Dearborn National. **Note:** This feature also applies to any coverage you elect for your spouse or partner under Spouse Term Life Insurance. For more information, see Portability of Coverage.

**Post-Service Claim**
A claim for payment of benefits after care has been received. For example, a claim that is submitted after you go to the doctor’s office is a post-service claim, as is a claim for reimbursement from your health care flexible spending account.

**Pre-Tax Contributions/Premiums**
Contributions or premiums deducted from your pay before your taxes are calculated. Pre-tax contributions or premiums reduce your taxable income (the income used to calculate your taxes) and so they reduce the income taxes you pay.

**Preferred Provider Organization/PPO**
A type of health plan that enables members to choose to receive care from ANY licensed doctor, hospital or facility but that pays higher benefits for “in-network” services (that is, services performed by members of a “preferred” provider network). The Premier, Select and Value PPO health plans – and the Dental PPO plan – offer PPO coverage.

**Premium**
This is the dollar amount deducted from your paycheck to pay for your coverage.

**Preventive Care**
The term used for regularly scheduled checkups with your doctor to identify health risks and prevent, diagnose, and treat illnesses so they can be found in early, more treatable stages.

**Primary Beneficiary**
An individual who is designated to receive life insurance benefits, in the event of the employee’s death. For example, an individual who has a spouse and two children may designate benefits to be paid first to the spouse and then to the children if the spouse is deceased. The spouse is considered the primary beneficiary.

**Primary Care Physician/PCP**
A physician you choose to have primary responsibility for overseeing your health care and to provide referrals to specialists, as required. If you enroll in an HMO, you usually must select a PCP.

**Qualified Domestic Relations Order/QDRO**
A decree or order issued by a court that establishes the rights of another person under a benefit plan.

**Qualified Medical Child Support Order/QMCSO**
A judgment, decree or order (including approval of a settlement agreement) or administrative notice, which is issued pursuant to a state domestic relations law (including a community property law), or to an administrative process, which provides for child support or provides for health benefit coverage to such child and relates to benefits under a group health plan, and which satisfies certain conditions. For details, see [Qualified Medical Child Support Order](#).
Qualifying Event/Qualifying Change in Family or Employment Status
A change in family or employment status – as defined by the IRS – after which you may change your health and welfare elections. For more information, see Benefit Changes.

Trust
A legal and financial arrangement used to manage an individual's assets in the event of his or her death. There are a variety of trust arrangements. If an individual is interested in learning more about trusts or establishing a trust, he or she should consult a licensed attorney experienced with trusts and estate planning.

Trustee
This is the manager of a trust, usually a bank or trust company.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act/USERRA
The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service or certain types of service in the National Disaster Medical System. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

Urgent Care/Expedited Clinical Claim
A claim for medical care or treatment when a delay in treatment could seriously jeopardize your life or health or the ability to regain maximum function or, in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of your health condition, could cause severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the requested care or treatment.

VESSA
The Victims’ Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) promotes employment security, economic stability, and safety for employees coping with domestic or sexual violence. VESSA permits eligible employees to take unpaid, job-guaranteed leave from employment to deal with domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, or stalking. VESSA also prohibits covered employers from discrimination regarding the conditions or privileges of employment based on an employee’s status as a survivor of domestic or sexual violence or as an employee with a family or household member who is a survivor of domestic or sexual violence, or based on any request for leave or other accommodations allowed under the law.

Will
A legal document that provides instructions on how an individual wishes his or her personal property, financial assets and personal belongings to be distributed in the event of his or her death. It may also specify instructions for funeral and related arrangements. An individual should write a will in order to appoint guardians for any minor children, and trustees to manage their property. If an individual does not leave a will, the court may appoint a guardian. A will should be updated following family and other status changes. A will must be witnessed and signed by an individual who is not a spouse, beneficiary or executor.
Wellness Benefits
University-sponsored benefits and programs designed to encourage Faculty, Staff and other employees to practice healthy lifestyles. These benefits and programs are offered throughout the year to teach and support healthier behaviors.

Claims & Appeals

To access and print a copy of a claim form, simply click on the appropriate links incorporated in the following pages. Most claim forms contain detailed instructions for completing the form, where to submit the form for processing and any additional information (e.g., receipts) you may need to include when submitting a claim. If you have any questions regarding claim filing procedures, contact the appropriate Claims administrator (as listed in Administrative Information).

Health Plans
The following guidelines apply to filing claims – or an appeal of a claim denial – under a University-sponsored health benefit plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>How to File a Claim</th>
<th>Filing Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premier PPO</td>
<td>For physician and hospital services:</td>
<td>• No later than one year after the date on which the service is received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select PPO</td>
<td>• In-network – present your BCBSIL coverage ID card at time of service; network providers will file the claim for you automatically</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Out-of-network – file a claim using the BCBSIL Health Insurance Claim Form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For prescription drugs:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In-network – present your BCBSIL coverage ID card, which contains Express Scripts information in the lower-right corner, at time of service and pay the copayment; you do not need to file a claim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Out-of-network – file a claim using the Express Scripts Prescription Drug Claim Form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value PPO</td>
<td>For physician and hospital services:</td>
<td>• No later than one year after the date on which the service is received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In-network – present your BCBSIL coverage ID card at time of service; network providers will file the claim for you automatically</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Out-of-network – file your own claim using the BCBSIL Health Insurance Claim Form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For prescription drugs:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In-network – present your BCBSIL coverage ID card, which contains Express Scripts information in the lower-right corner, at time of service and pay full cost of drug up to annual deductible, then pay coinsurance; if you have an HSA and a PayFlex debit card you may pay your share of these costs using your debit card; alternatively, you can use the checkbook provided by PayFlex for reimbursement of eligible expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Out-of-network – file a claim using the Express Scripts Prescription Drug Claim Form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMO Illinois</td>
<td>• You do not need to file a claim for physician and hospital services and/or prescription drugs; present your BCBSIL coverage ID card, which contains Express Scripts</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Important!** Whether a claim is filed automatically on your behalf or by you personally, it is your responsibility to ensure that the necessary claim information is provided to the Claims administrator. If you are filing a claim yourself, you will need to submit itemized receipts from the provider detailing the services provided along with your completed claim form.

If you are covered under the University-sponsored PPO health plan and need to submit a claim for services received from a non-participating provider, your claim form must include:

- Your name, address and Social Security number
- The patient’s name and date of birth
- The member and group number, if applicable, as shown on your coverage ID card
- The date the injury or sickness began
- The provider’s name and address
- The diagnosis and a description of the service
- The date of service
- Copies of the bills to be considered for benefits or payment, and
- A statement indicating that you either are or are not covered under any other health insurance plan. If you do have other coverage, you must provide the name of the other carrier.

---

You may designate a representative to act on your behalf in pursuing a claim or appeal, but this designation must be explicitly stated in writing and must authorize disclosure of protected health information with respect to the claim. If you would like to designate a representative, you will need to contact the Claims administrator.

---

**Note:** You must follow the procedures described in this section to “exhaust” your administrative remedies under your coverage before you can pursue an external review and/or other legal action relating to a claim for coverage or benefits under that coverage.

**Payment of Claims**

Generally, payments will be made to the hospital, clinic or physician’s office that provided your care or services, except that in some instances (e.g., for care or services received by a non-participating provider), you may be required to pay the provider and then submit a claim to the Claims administrator. The Claims administrator may request any information required to determine benefits or to process a claim. You or the provider of the services will be contacted if additional information is needed to process your claim.

When your child is subject to a [Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO)](#), the Claims administrator will make reimbursement of eligible expenses paid by you, the
child, the child’s non-employee custodial parent, or legal guardian, to that person as provided in the QMCSO.

Payment of benefits will be made in accordance with an assignment of rights for you and your dependents as required under state Medicaid law.

Claims Decisions
After submission of a claim by you, your beneficiary or your authorized representative acting on behalf of you (each a “claimant”), the Claims administrator will notify the claimant of the Claims administrator’s decision in writing or by acceptable electronic means, in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, and within a reasonable time, as follows:

- **Pre-Service Claims** – The Claims administrator will notify the claimant of a favorable or adverse determination of a claim for medical care for which the Plan requires advance approval (including pre-certification or utilization review) within a reasonable time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but no later than 15 days after receipt of the pre-service claim.

However, this period may be extended by an additional 15 days if the claims administrator determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the administrator’s control. The Claims administrator will notify the claimant of the extension before the end of the initial 15-day period, the reason(s) the extension is necessary, and the date by which the Claims administrator expects to make a decision. If the reason for the extension is because the claimant failed to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the notice of extension will describe the required information and the claimant will have at least 45 days from the date of the notice to provide the specified information. If the claimant’s pre-service claim does not follow the procedures for filing a pre-service claim, the claimant will receive notice from the Claims administrator within 5 days following the failure.

- **Urgent Care Claims** – The Claims administrator will determine whether a claim is an urgent care claim, with deference to the determination of the attending provider. The Claims administrator may require the claimant to clarify the medical urgency and circumstances that support the urgent care claim for expedited decision-making.

The Claims administrator will notify the claimant of a favorable or adverse determination as soon as possible (taking into account the medical urgency particular to the participant’s situation) but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the urgent care claim.

However, if a claim is submitted that does not provide sufficient information to determine whether, or to what extent, benefits are covered or payable under the plan, the Claims administrator will notify the claimant as soon as possible, but not more than 24 hours after receipt of the urgent care claim. The notice will describe the specific information necessary to complete the claim.
The claimant will then have a reasonable amount of time (up to 48 hours) to provide the necessary information. The Claims administrator will notify the claimant of the urgent care claim determination as soon as possible, but in no event more than 48 hours after the earlier of:
- The receipt of the specified information; or
- The end of the 48-hour period given to the claimant to provide the specified additional information.

The claimant may be notified of this determination orally, but if so, the Claims administrator will also send a written or electronic notice of the determination within three days of the oral notice. If the claimant’s urgent care claim does not follow the procedures for filing an urgent care claim, the claimant will receive a notice from the Claims administrator within 24 hours following the failure.

**Concurrent Care Decisions** – The Claims administrator will notify the claimant of a concurrent care decision that involves a reduction in or termination of the care that the participant is receiving (a participant’s current course of treatment). The Claims administrator will provide the notice sufficiently in advance of the reduction or termination to allow the claimant to appeal and obtain a determination on review of the adverse determination before the benefit is reduced or terminated.

A claimant’s request to extend a course of treatment beyond the period of time or number of treatments that is a claim involving urgent care will be decided by the Claims administrator as soon as possible, taking into account the medical urgency particular to the participant’s situation. The Claims administrator will notify the claimant of the benefit determination, whether favorable or adverse, within 24 hours after receipt of the claim, but the claimant must have submitted the claim for extension at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of the prescribed period of time or number of treatments.

**Post-Service Claims** – The Claims administrator will notify the claimant of a determination, whether favorable or adverse, of a claim that is filed after the participant received the medical care within a reasonable time, but not later than 30 days after receipt of the claim.

However, this period may be extended by an additional 15 days if the Claims administrator determines that the extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the administrator.

The Claims administrator will notify the claimant of the extension before the end of the initial 30-day period, the reason(s) the extension is necessary, and the date by which the plan expects to make a decision. If the reason for the extension is because of the claimant’s failure to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the notice of extension will describe the required information and the claimant will have at least 45 days from the date of the notice to provide the specified information.

**Initial Denial Notices**
A claim denial notice from the Claims administrator will include:

---

January 2016 Other Information 7.13
- Information sufficient to identify the claim involved including the date of service, the health care provider, the claim amount (if applicable), and a statement describing the availability of the diagnosis and treatment codes and their corresponding meanings (if you request the diagnosis and treatment codes, this information will be provided to you as soon as possible following your request)
- The specific reason or reasons for the denial
- The code assigned to the reason for the denial (along with the meaning of the code)
- A description of the plan’s standard, if any, that was used in denying the claim
- The specific plan provisions on which the determination is based
- A description of the internal appeals procedures and external review processes for the plan (including information about how to appeal a denial and the time limits applicable to such procedures)
- A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary
- Contact information for any office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman available to assist the claimant with the internal claims and appeals and external review processes, and
- A description of any internal rule, protocol or similar criterion that the Claims administrator relied on to deny the claim and a statement that a copy of this rule, protocol or similar criterion will be provided to the claimant free of charge upon request.

If the denial is based on medical necessity, experimental treatment, or a similar exclusion or limit under the plan, the notice will provide either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination (applying the terms of the plan to the participant’s medical circumstances) or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

In the case of a denial of an urgent care claim, the notice will provide a description of the plan’s expedited review procedures applicable to such claims.

**Appeals of Adverse Determinations**

A claimant must appeal a claim denial within 180 days after receiving written notice of the denial (or partial denial). A claimant must make an appeal of the initial claim denial by means of written application, in person, or by mail (postage prepaid), addressed to:

Claim Review Section
Health Care Service Corporation
P.O. Box 2401
Chicago, IL 60690

However, in the case of an appeal of a claim denial involving urgent care, the claimant may make a request for an expedited appeal of a claim denial orally or in writing and all necessary information will be transmitted between the Plan and the claimant by telephone, fax or other available similarly expedited method.
A claimant may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information and, upon request and free of charge, will be given reasonable access to (and copies of) all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim. Appeals of denied claims will be conducted promptly, will not defer to the initial determination and will not be made by the person who made the initial adverse claim determination or a subordinate of that person.

The determination on appeal will also take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, regardless of whether such information or documentation was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

Coverage will continue pending the outcome of the appeal, to the extent required by applicable law.

If the denial was based (in whole or in part) on a medical judgment, including whether a particular treatment, drug or other item is experimental, investigational or not medically necessary or appropriate, the person deciding the appeal will consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the medical field involved in the medical judgment.

The consulting health care professional will not be the same person who was consulted in connection with the initial denial or a subordinate of that person. The Claims administrator reviewing the appeal will identify any medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with the denial being appealed, regardless of whether the advice was relied upon in denying the claim.

If any new or additional evidence is considered, relied upon or generated by the plan as part of the appeal review or if the determination is based on any new or additional rationale, this evidence and rationale will be provided (free of charge) to the claimant as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which any notice of a denial of an appeal is required to give the claimant a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date.

**Time Periods for Decisions on Appeal**

Appeals of claim denials will be decided and notice of the decision will be provided as follows:

- **Urgent Care Claims** – As soon as possible, but not later than 72 hours after the claimant filed the appeal request
- **Pre-Service Claims** – Within a reasonable period, but not later than 15 days after the claimant filed the appeal request
- **Post-Service Claims** – Within a reasonable period, but not later than 30 days after the claimant filed the appeal request.
- **Concurrent Care Decisions** – Within the time periods specified above, depending on the type of claim involved.

**Appeal Denial Notices**

A notice of a denial on appeal will include:
The specific reason or reasons for the denial of an appealed claim
A reference to the benefit plan provisions on which the determination is based, or the contractual, administrative or protocol for the determination
The identification of the claim, date of service, health care provider, claim amount (if applicable) and information about how to obtain diagnosis, treatment and denial codes and their meanings – subject to privacy laws and other restrictions
An explanation of the Claims administrator’s external review processes (including how to initiate an external review) and a statement of your right, if any, to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA following a final denial on external appeal
A statement in non-English language(s) that future notices of claim denials and certain other benefit information may be available in such non-English language(s) – in certain situations
Notification of the claimant’s right to request – free of charge – reasonable access to and copies of all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim for benefits;
Any internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion relied on in the determination, or a statement that a copy of such rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion will be provided free of charge upon request, and
An explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment that was relied on in the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request, and
A description of the plan’s standard, if any, that was used in denying the claim.

Second Appeal of a Claim Denial
A claimant may request a standard or expedited external review of a benefit denial by an Independent Review Organization (IRO). To request an external review of a denial by an IRO, a claimant must contact:

Claim Review Section
Health Care Service Corporation
P.O. Box 2401
Chicago, IL 60690

Within five business days of receiving the claimant’s external review request, the Claims administrator will complete a preliminary review of this request and will provide the claimant with written notice within one business day after completing its preliminary review.

The preliminary review determines whether:
• The claimant is or was covered under the Plan at the time the health care item or service was requested or provided
• The denial relates to the claimant’s failure to meet the requirements for eligibility under the Plan
• The claimant has exhausted (or is not required to exhaust) the Plan’s internal appeal process, and
• The claimant has provided all of the information and forms required to process an external review.
If the claimant’s request is complete but the denial is not eligible for external review, the notice will include the reason(s) for ineligibility and the contact information for the Employee Benefits Security Administration at **866-444-3272**.

If the request is not complete, the notice will describe the information or materials needed to complete the request.

The claimant will have until the later of the initial four-month filing period or the 48-hour period after the receipt of the notice to provide such information or materials. If the claimant’s request is eligible for external review, an IRO will be assigned to conduct the external review and the IRO will provide timely notification to the claimant that the request is eligible for and has been accepted for external review. Within 10 business days after the receipt of the notice, the claimant may submit to the IRO any additional information that the IRO will consider when conducting the external review.

The IRO will provide the Claims administrator with any information submitted by the claimant within one business day after it receives the information and the Claims administrator may reconsider its denial. If the Claims administrator decides to reverse its denial, it will provide written notice of its decision to the claimant and the IRO within 1 business day of completing its reconsideration and the IRO will terminate the external review upon receiving this notice.

The IRO will review all of the information and documentation that it timely receives and will provide written notice of its final decision within 45 days after the IRO receives the claimant’s request for an external review. This notice to the claimant will contain:
- A general description of the reason for the request for external review, including information sufficient to identify the claim (such as the date of service, the health care provider, the claim amount, and the diagnosis code, the treatment code and the meanings of these codes)
- The date the IRO received the assignment to conduct the external review and the date the IRO made its decision
- References to the evidence or documentation (including the specific coverage provisions and evidence-based standards) the IRO considered in making its decision
- A discussion of the principal reason(s) for the IRO’s decision (including the rationale for its decision and any evidence-based standards that were relied on in making its decision)
- A statement that the determination is binding except to the extent that other remedies may be available under state or federal law to either the Plan or to the claimant
- A statement that judicial review may be available to the claimant, and
- Current contact information (including the phone number) for any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman that may be available to assist the claimant.
Upon receipt of a notice that the IRO has reversed the claim or appeal denial, the Plan will immediately provide coverage or payment for the denied claim.

**Expedited External Review Process**
The external review process described above may be conducted on an expedited basis if:

- The claim denial involves a medical condition for which the timeframe for completing an urgent care claim internal appeal (provided the claimant has filed an internal appeal for an urgent care claim denial) would seriously jeopardize the life or health of the participant or would jeopardize the participant’s ability to regain maximum function.
- The denial of the internal appeal involves a medical condition for which the timeframe for completing a standard external appeal would seriously jeopardize the life or health of the participant or would jeopardize the participant’s ability to regain maximum function, or
- The denial of the internal appeal concerned an admission, availability of care, continued stay or health care item or service for which the participant received emergency services but has not been discharged from a facility.

Under an expedited external review process, the Claims administrator will complete its preliminary review and immediately thereafter send a notice to the claimant of the request’s eligibility for an expedited external review. The Claims administrator will then assign an IRO to such request if it is eligible for an expedited external review and will provide or transmit all necessary documentation and information considered in denying the claim or appeal by any available expeditious method (such as electronically or by telephone or fax). The IRO will consider the information or documentation under the procedures for a standard external review, but will complete the expedited review and provide notification to the claimant as expeditiously as the participant’s medical condition or circumstances require, but in no event more than 72 hours after the IRO receives the request for an expedited external review. If this notice is not in writing, the IRO will provide written confirmation of the decision to the claimant within 48 hours after providing that notice.

**Assistance**
If you need assistance with the internal claims and appeals or the external review processes that are described in this section, you may contact the Illinois Ombudsman Program at 877-527-9431, or call the number on the back of your coverage ID card for further information. In addition, for questions about your appeal rights or for assistance, you can contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration at 866-444-3272.

**Exhaustion**
Upon completion of the claims and appeals and external review process under this section, the claimant will have exhausted his or her administrative remedies under the plan. If the Claims administrator fails to complete a claim determination or an appeal according to the requirements set forth above*, the claimant may be treated as if he or she has exhausted the internal claims and appeals process and he or she may

---

*The blank space at the end of the sentence is a placeholder for a possible condition or requirement that is not clearly stated in the text provided.
request an external review or pursue any available remedies under applicable law. No action at law or in equity may be brought with respect to plan benefits until all rights under the plan have been exhausted and any such action must be brought no later than two years from the date of the Claims administrator’s final decision upon review of a second level appeal or the expiration of the applicable limitations period under applicable law (whichever is earlier).

* Other than a failure that is de minimis, non-prejudicial, due to good cause or matters beyond the Claims administrator’s control, in the context of an ongoing, good-faith exchange of information, and not reflective of a pattern or practice of non-compliance.

**Dental Plans**
The following guidelines apply to filing claims – or an appeal of a claim denial – under the University-sponsored Dearborn National dental benefit plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>How to File a Claim</th>
<th>Filing Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Dental PPO      | • Prior to visiting a dentist, complete the Patient’s Information section on a Dearborn National Attending Dentist’s Statement  
                  • Following treatment, have the dentist complete the Dentist’s Information section  | • No later than one year after the date on which the service is received. |
| Dental HMO      | • You do not need to file a claim; copayment(s) may apply at time of service         | NA                                                   |

**Important!** It is your responsibility to ensure that the necessary claim information is provided to the Claims administrator. If you are filing a claim yourself, you will need to submit itemized receipts from the provider detailing the services provided along with your completed claim form.

The Claims administrator will pay all claims within 30 days of receipt of all information required to process a claim. The Claims administrator will provide written notice when all information required to process and pay the claim has been received.

In the event that the Claims administrator does not process a claim within this 30-day period, you or your valid assignee will be entitled to interest at the rate of 9% per year, from the 30th day after the receipt of all claim information until the date payment is actually made.

**Note:** You may designate a representative to act for you in the review procedure. Your designation of a representative must be in writing as it is necessary to protect against disclosure of information about you except to your authorized representative.

After submission of a claim by you, your beneficiary or your authorized representative acting on behalf of you (each a “claimant”), the Claims administrator will notify the claimant of its decision regarding the claim.

**Filing an Appeal**
If a claim is denied in whole or in part, the notice the claimant receives from the Claims administrator will include:
The reason(s) for the denial
A reference to the plan provisions on which the denial is based
A description of additional information which may be necessary to perfect the appeal, and
An explanation of how the claimant may have the claim reviewed by the Claims administrator if the claimant does not agree with the denial.

If the claimant would like the claim to be reviewed, the claimant must submit a written request to the Claims administrator within 180 days after receipt of the notice of the denial, which should include the reason(s) why the claimant does not agree with the denial. The claimant should send the request to:

Dearborn National - Dental
P.O. Box 23060
Belleville, Illinois 62223-0060

While the Claims administrator will honor telephone requests for information, such inquiries will not constitute a request for review.

The claimant may ask to see relevant documents and may submit written issues, comments and additional medical information within 180 days after he receives notice of a denial or partial denial. The Claims administrator will give the claimant a written decision within 60 days after it receives the request for review.

If you have any questions about the claims procedures or the review procedure, write or call the Claims administrator (see Administrative Information).

If you have a claim for benefits, which is denied or ignored in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court.

EyeMed Vision Care Plan
The following guidelines apply to filing claims – or an appeal of a claim denial – under the University-sponsored EyeMed Vision Care benefit plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>How to File a Claim</th>
<th>Filing Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| EyeMed Vision Care Plan     | - In-network – contact provider for an appointment and indicate that you have EyeMed Vision Care coverage; you do not need to file a claim  
- Out-of-network – pay the bill in full and file a claim using the Out of Network Vision Services Claim Form. Mail to:  
  EyeMed Vision Care  
  Attn: OON Claims  
  PO Box 8504  
  Mason, OH 45040-7111 | 1 Year                                                                               |                 |

For out-of-network services (that is, services received from a vision care provider who is NOT a member of the EyeMed Vision Care network) – reimbursement will be according to the plan’s maximum schedule of allowances.
After submission of a claim, the Claims administrator will notify the claimant of its decision regarding the claim within 30 days. The Claims administrator may apply a 15-day extension period.

**Filing an Appeal**

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, the notice the claimant receives from the Claims administrator will include:

- The reason(s) for the denial
- A reference to the plan provisions on which the denial is based
- A description of additional information which may be necessary to perfect the appeal, and
- An explanation of how the claimant may have the claim reviewed by the Claims administrator if the claimant does not agree with the denial.

If the claimant would like the claim to be reviewed, the claimant must submit a written request to the Claims administrator within 180 days after receipt of the notice of the denial. The request for review should be sent to:

EyeMed Vision Care LLC  
Attn: Quality Assurance Department  
4000 Luxottica Place  
Mason, OH 45040  
Fax: 513-492-4999

The appeal should include the following:

- Claim number and a copy of the denial or Explanation of Benefits (EOB)
- Item member feels was misinterpreted or inaccurately applied, and
- Additional information to assist in completing the review.

The Claims administrator will give the claimant a written decision within 60 days after it receives the request for review.

If you have any questions about the claims procedures or the review procedure, write or call the Claims administrator (see Administrative Information).

If you have a claim for benefits, which is denied or ignored in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court.
# Spending & Savings Accounts

The following guidelines apply to filing claims under the University-sponsored spending and savings accounts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>How to File a Claim</th>
<th>Filing Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Health Care FSA/Limited Use FSA | • Present your PayFlex debit card at time of service for copayments; alternatively, you should use Express Claims online to file for reimbursement or complete and submit a PayFlex Health/Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account Claim Form.  
• Note: If you are enrolled in the Value PPO health plan and participating in a Limited Use FSA, once you meet the Value PPO annual deductible you must complete and submit a PayFlex Post-Deductible FSA Expense Reimbursement Certification Form before any eligible medical expenses can be reimbursed from this account. | • No later than March 31 each year for eligible expenses incurred from January 1 of the plan year through March 15 of the following calendar year |
| Dependent Care FSA            | • Use Express Claims online, or complete and submit a PayFlex Health/Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account Claim Form for reimbursement of eligible expenses; you cannot use a PayFlex debit card to pay eligible dependent care expenses. | • No later than March 31 each year for eligible expenses incurred from January 1 through December 31 of the prior plan year |
| Health Savings Account (HSA)  | • Present your PayFlex debit card at time of service: alternatively, you can go online to the PayFlex website and request funds to be sent to the provider or to you (as reimbursement). | • NA |

1 Or, if later, the date during the prior calendar year on which your participation in the account began.  
2 Or, if sooner, the date during the prior calendar year on which your employment terminated or you retired. You cannot file claims for expenses incurred after your termination or retirement date.

**Note:** If you are participating in a flexible spending account, be sure to register online at [www.healthhub.com](http://www.healthhub.com); you will need your Employee ID number and ZIP code; once you register, you can use this site to track your contributions and claims.

**Important!** You will forfeit any contributions from the prior calendar year that remain in a Health Care FSA, Limited Use FSA or Dependent Care FSA on April 1 of the following calendar year. If you have an HSA, unused contributions from the prior calendar year will roll over automatically and be available to use for eligible expenses you may incur during any subsequent calendar year.

**Health Care FSA/Limited Use FSA**

If you are participating in a Health Care FSA or Limited Use FSA you will receive a pre-activated debit card from the Claims administrator, PayFlex. You may use this debit card at the time of service if the service provider is an approved merchant (e.g., a member of your dental or vision plan’s provider network, Wal-Mart, Walgreen’s). A complete listing of IRS-approved merchants is available at [www.healthhub.com](http://www.healthhub.com). It is recommended that the card only be used to pay copayments.
You can also submit claims using a claim form or online using Express Claims. You can download claim forms online at [www.healthhub.com](http://www.healthhub.com) through your online account with PayFlex. You will need to complete the claim form and attach a receipt; you can fax the form and receipt or other proof of the expense to PayFlex using the number provided on the claim form or upload the proof and submit the entire claim online.

Examples of documents that you can submit as proof of an eligible expense include:

- A receipt referencing the date of service, the provider, the amount billed and the type of service
- A canceled check accompanied by a third party statement as verification of the incurred health care expense, or
- An Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statement received from a medical or dental insurance plan.

There is no minimum claim amount. If the amount for which you submit a claim exceeds the current balance in your account, the claim will be paid up to the total amount you have elected to contribute for the current year; if this results in a negative account balance, your contributions for the balance of the year will be used to make up this negative balance.

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, you will receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) providing the reasons for the denial. If you wish to appeal the denial, you may contact PayFlex, the Claims administrator at 800-284-4885.

A decision will be made on your appeal within 60 calendar days after your request is received, unless special circumstances apply; in this case, you will receive notice that up to 60 additional days may be required.

Claims administrator decisions concerning claims appeals will be final and binding on you, your dependents and all other interested parties. In no event will you or a family member be entitled to challenge a decision of the Claims administrator in court or in another administrative proceeding until you exhaust all administrative procedures outlined above.

**Dependent Care FSA**

If you are participating in a Dependent Care FSA, you must submit claims using a claim form or online using Express Claims. You can download claim forms online at [www.healthhub.com](http://www.healthhub.com) through your online account with PayFlex. You will need to complete the claim form and attach a receipt; you can upload the proof and submit the entire claim online or fax the form and receipt or other proof of the expense to PayFlex using the number provided on the claim form.

When submitting a claim, you must include:

- The name, Social Security Number or federal tax ID number of the care provider and the amount paid for their services
- The dependent’s name, relationship to you and age
- The dates of service, and
- Appropriate receipts, invoices or other documents.

**Note:** The Social Security Number and federal tax ID number are not necessary if the care provider is a tax-exempt group (such as a church or if the care is provided outside of the United States by a foreign citizen). If no receipts are available, the care provider may record this information on the claim form along with his or her signature.

There is no minimum claim amount. If the amount for which you submit a claim exceeds the current balance in your account, the claim will be paid up to the total amount available in your account at the time the claim is processed. If the claim exceeds the current account balance, you will be reimbursed the balance of your claim in installments as you make additional contributions to your account through payroll deductions.

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, you will receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) providing the reasons for the denial. If you wish to appeal the denial, you may contact PayFlex, the Claims administrator at 800-284-4885.

A decision will be made on your appeal within 60 calendar days after your request is received, unless special circumstances apply; in this case, you will receive notice that up to 60 additional days may be required.

Claims administrator decisions concerning claims appeals will be final and binding on you, your dependents and all other interested parties. In no event will you or a family member be entitled to challenge a decision of the Claims administrator in court or in another administrative proceeding until you exhaust all administrative procedures outlined above.

**Health Savings Account (HSA)**
You may use a PayFlex debit card to pay qualified medical expenses at the time of service; alternatively, you may go online to the PayFlex website and request funds to be sent to the provider or to you as reimbursement.

**Disability Benefits**
The following guidelines apply to filing a claim for benefits from the University-sponsored Long Term Disability Plan offered through The Hartford.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>How to File a Claim</th>
<th>Filing Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Long Term Disability | - If The Hartford is already managing Extended Sick Time (EST) benefits on your behalf, you will receive written notification from The Hartford about 90 days prior to the scheduled start date of your LTD benefits  
- If The Hartford is NOT already managing EST benefits on your behalf, you must provide The Hartford initial written notice of your LTD benefits claim within the prescribed timeframe (as noted at right); if notice cannot be given within that time, it must be provided as soon as reasonably possible after that.  
- Notice must include your name, address and the policy number. | - Initial written notification must be received within 20 days of the date on which disability begins (unless The Hartford is already managing EST benefits on your behalf) |
Within 15 days after receipt of notice, you will be sent forms with which to provide proof of loss (see definition below).

Proof of loss may include – but is not limited to – the following:

- Documentation of the date your disability began, the cause of your disability, the prognosis of your disability, your pre-disability earnings, currently monthly earnings or any income (including but not limited to copies of your files and signed federal and state tax returns), and evidence that you are under the regular care of a physician
- Any and all medical information (including x-rays and photocopies of medical records (including histories, physical, mental or diagnostic examinations and treatment notes)
- The names and addresses of all physicians or other qualified medical professionals you have consulted, hospitals or other medical facilities in which you have been treated, and pharmacies which have filled your prescriptions within the past three years
- Your signed authorization for the Claims administrator to obtain and release medical, employment and financial information, and any other information the Claims administrator may reasonably require
- Your signed statement identifying all other benefits to which you may be entitled, and
- Proof that you and your dependents have applied for all other income benefits that are available.

You will be required to claim any retirement benefits that you may only get on a reduced basis. All proof submitted must be satisfactory to the Claims administrator.

Filing an Appeal
If a claim is denied in whole or in part, you will receive a notice from the Claims administrator that will include:

- The reason(s) for the denial
- A reference to the plan provisions on which the denial is based
- A description of additional information which may be necessary to perfect the appeal, and
- An explanation of how you may have the claim reviewed by the Claims administrator if you do not agree with the denial.

If you would like the claim to be reviewed, you must submit a written request to the Claims administrator within 180 days of receipt of the claim denial if the claim requires The Hartford to make a determination of a disability (within 60 days after receipt of the notice of the denial if the claim does not require The Hartford to make a determination of disability). You may request copies of all documents, records and other information relating to your claim. The Hartford will respond to you in writing with a final decision regarding your claim.
If you have any questions about the claims procedures or the review procedure, write or call the Claims administrator (see Administrative Information).

**Life & Other Insurance Plans**

The following guidelines apply to filing a claim for benefits from the University-sponsored Dearborn National life and CNA long term care insurance plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>How to File a Claim</th>
<th>Filing Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Term Life Insurance</td>
<td>• Provide initial written notice of death or accidental injury to the Benefits Division and submit proof of loss (e.g., death certificate) as soon as possible.</td>
<td>• Initial written notification must be received within 30 days of date of loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Term Life Insurance</td>
<td>• The Benefits Division will forward the proof of loss – and, if applicable, a Death Claim Form, your beneficiary designations and proof of enrollment – to the Claims administrator.</td>
<td>• Written proof of loss (e.g., death certificate) must be received within 90 days of date of loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse Term Life Insurance</td>
<td>• In the event of:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Term Life Insurance</td>
<td>• A non-death loss – you will receive the benefit paid either through a benefits checkbook (if benefits are $10,000 or more) or a lump sum check made out to you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The death of a spouse, partner or child – you will receive the benefit paid either through a benefits checkbook (if benefits are $10,000 or more) or a lump sum check.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Your death – your designated beneficiary(ies) will receive the benefit paid either through a benefits checkbook (if benefits are $10,000 or more) or a lump sum check.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Care Insurance</td>
<td>• Claimants should call CNA at <strong>800-528-4582</strong></td>
<td>• NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 90-day waiting period applies before benefit payments begin; waiting period begins on the date CNA is notified of the claim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Insured must be certified as chronically ill during the entire waiting period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No reimbursement is made for expenses incurred during waiting period; however, if CNA receives proof that insured was chronically ill prior to date it was notified of the claim, the waiting period will begin on the date the disability began</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Travel Insurance</td>
<td>• Provide initial written notice of a loss to the Benefits Division and submit proof of loss as soon as possible</td>
<td>• Written proof of loss (e.g., death certificate) must be received within 90 days of date of loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Benefits Division will forward the proof of loss – and, if applicable, a Death Claim Form, your beneficiary designations and proof of enrollment – to the Claims administrator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In the event of:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A non-death loss – you will receive the benefit paid in a lump sum check made out to you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Your death – your designated beneficiary(ies) will receive the benefit paid in a lump sum check.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Claims administrator will pay all life insurance claims within 90 days of receipt of due proof of loss or, if special circumstances apply (such as the need to obtain additional information) within 180 days of that date. The Claims administrator will provide written notice when all information required to process and pay the claim has been received.
**Note:** You may designate a representative to act for you in the review process. Your designation of a representative must be in writing as it is necessary to protect against disclosure of information about you except to your authorized representative. After submission of a claim by you, your beneficiary or your authorized representative acting on behalf of you (each a “claimant”), the Claims administrator will notify the claimant of its decision regarding the claim.

**Filing an Appeal**

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, the notice the claimant receives from the Claims administrator will include:

- The reason(s) for the denial
- A reference to the plan provisions on which the denial is based
- A description of additional information which may be necessary to perfect the appeal, and
- An explanation of how the claimant may have the claim reviewed by the Claims administrator if the claimant does not agree with the denial.

If the claimant would like the claim to be reviewed, the claimant must submit a written request to the Claims administrator within 60 days after receipt of the notice of the denial. The claimant should send the request – which should include the reason(s) why the claimant does not agree with the denial – to:

**Claims Department**
**Dearborn National**
**1020 31st Street**
**Downers Grove, IL  60515-5591**

If you have any questions about the claims procedures or the review procedure, write or call the claim administrator (see [Administrative Information](#)).

If you have a claim for benefits that is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court.

**Educational Assistance**

To qualify for educational assistance benefits under the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan, Employee Portable Tuition Plan, Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan, Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan or Dependent Portable Tuition Plan, you must be a full-time employee as of the first day of the term for which the benefit is being requested. **Note:** If you lose eligibility during a term of study, the educational assistance benefit will be provided through the end of that term.

To file an application for educational assistance benefits:

- Complete the appropriate [educational assistance benefits application](#)
- Include a signed copy of your most recently filed IRS Form 1040 as proof of dependency for the Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan or Dependent Portable Tuition Plan.
- Attach additional documentation (e.g., an invoice, proof of payment, proof of full-time student status) – if you are applying for benefits from the Employee Portable **Note:** You may designate a representative to act for you in the review process. Your designation of a representative must be in writing as it is necessary to protect against disclosure of information about you except to your authorized representative. After submission of a claim by you, your beneficiary or your authorized representative acting on behalf of you (each a “claimant”), the Claims administrator will notify the claimant of its decision regarding the claim.

**Filing an Appeal**

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, the notice the claimant receives from the Claims administrator will include:

- The reason(s) for the denial
- A reference to the plan provisions on which the denial is based
- A description of additional information which may be necessary to perfect the appeal, and
- An explanation of how the claimant may have the claim reviewed by the Claims administrator if the claimant does not agree with the denial.

If the claimant would like the claim to be reviewed, the claimant must submit a written request to the Claims administrator within 60 days after receipt of the notice of the denial. The claimant should send the request – which should include the reason(s) why the claimant does not agree with the denial – to:

**Claims Department**
**Dearborn National**
**1020 31st Street**
**Downers Grove, IL  60515-5591**

If you have any questions about the claims procedures or the review procedure, write or call the claim administrator (see [Administrative Information](#)).

If you have a claim for benefits that is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court.

**Educational Assistance**

To qualify for educational assistance benefits under the Employee Reduced Tuition Plan, Employee Portable Tuition Plan, Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan, Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan or Dependent Portable Tuition Plan, you must be a full-time employee as of the first day of the term for which the benefit is being requested. **Note:** If you lose eligibility during a term of study, the educational assistance benefit will be provided through the end of that term.

To file an application for educational assistance benefits:

- Complete the appropriate [educational assistance benefits application](#)
- Include a signed copy of your most recently filed IRS Form 1040 as proof of dependency for the Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan or Dependent Portable Tuition Plan.
- Attach additional documentation (e.g., an invoice, proof of payment, proof of full-time student status) – if you are applying for benefits from the Employee Portable Tuition Plan.
Tuition Plan, Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan or the Dependent Portable Tuition Plan.

Send your completed application and supporting materials to the Benefits Division.

**Note:** NU Medical School faculty should submit this form to:
Northwestern University Medical School Administrative Operations
420 E. Superior Street
Rubloff 12-182
Chicago, IL 60611.

The form should be submitted within:
- The calendar year for which the benefit is being requested – if you are applying for benefits from the Reduced Tuition Plans.
- Within one year after the first day of the term of study for which the benefit is being requested – if you are applying for benefits from the Portable Tuition Plans.
Coordination of Benefits and Right of Reimbursement

Coordination of Benefits

Coordination of Benefits (COB) applies when you have health care coverage through more than one group program. The purpose of COB is to insure that you receive all of the coverage to which you are entitled but no more than the actual cost of the care received. In other words, the total payment from all of your coverages together will not add up to be more than the total charges that you have incurred. It is your obligation to notify the Claims Administrator of the existence of such group coverages.

To coordinate benefits, it is necessary to determine what the payment responsibility is for each benefit program. This is done by following these rules:

- The coverage under which the patient is the eligible person (rather than a dependent) is primary (that is, full benefits are paid under that program). The other coverage is secondary and only pays any remaining allowable charges.
- When a dependent child receives services, the birthdays of the child’s parents are used to determine which coverage is primary. The coverage of the parent whose birthday (month and day) comes before the other parent’s birthday in the calendar year will be considered the primary coverage. If both parents have the same birthday, then the coverage that has been in effect the longest is primary. If the other coverage does not have this “birthday” type of COB provision and, as a result, both coverages would be considered either primary or secondary, then the provisions of the other coverage will determine which coverage is primary.
- However, when the parents are separated or divorced and the parent with custody of the child has not remarried, the benefits of a contract which covers the child as a dependent of the parent with custody of the child will be determined before the benefits of a contract which covers the child as a dependent of the parent without custody;
- when the parents are divorced and the parent with custody of the child has remarried, the benefits of a contract that covers the child as a dependent of the parent with custody shall be determined before the benefits of a contract that covers that child as a dependent of the stepparent. The benefits of a contract that covers that child as a dependent of the stepparent will be determined before the benefits of a contract that covers that child as a dependent of the parent without custody.

Notwithstanding the items above, if there is a court decree which would otherwise establish financial responsibility for the medical, dental, or other health care expenses with respect to the child, the benefits of a contract that covers the child as a dependent of the parent with such financial responsibility shall be determined before the benefits of any other contract that covers the child as a dependent child. It is the obligation of the person claiming benefits to notify the Claims administrator, and upon its request to provide a copy, of such court decree.
- If neither of the above rules apply, then the coverage that has been in effect the longest is primary.
The only time these rules will not apply is if the other group benefit program does not include a COB provision. In that case, the other group program is automatically primary.

The Claims administrator has the right in administering these COB provisions to:

- Pay any other organization an amount, which it determines to be warranted if payments that should have been made by the Claims administrator have been made by such other organization under any other group program.
- Recover any overpayment, which the Claims administrator may have made to you, any provider, insurance company, person or other organization.

**Right of Reimbursement**

If you or one of your covered family members incur expenses for sickness or injury that occurred due to negligence of a third party and benefits are provided for covered services under a plan described in this handbook, you agree:

- The Claims administrator has the rights to reimbursement for all benefits the Claims administrator provided from any and all damages collected from the third party for those same expenses whether by action at law, settlement, or compromise, by you or your legal representative as a result of sickness or injury, in the amount of the total allowable charge or provider’s claim charge for covered services for which the Claims administrator has provided benefits to you, reduced by any average discount percentage applicable to your claim or claims.
- The Claims administrator is assigned the right to recover from the third party, or his or her insurer, to the extent of the benefits the Claims administrator provided for that sickness or injury.

The Claims administrator shall have the right to first reimbursement out of all funds you, your covered dependents or your legal representative, are or were able to obtain for the same expenses for which the Claims administrator has provided benefits as a result of that sickness or injury.

You are required to furnish any information, assistance or documents that the Claims administrator may reasonably require in order to obtain its rights under this provision. This provision applies whether or not the third party admits liability.
### Administrative Information

| Applicable to All Plans | Plan Sponsor | Northwestern University  
720 University Place  
Evanston, IL 60208-1143  
847-491-7513 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employer ID Number</td>
<td>36-2167817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Plan Administrator      | Director of Benefits  
Northwestern University  
720 University Place  
Evanston, IL 60208-1143  
847-491-7513 |
| Agent for Service of Legal Process | Office of General Counsel  
633 Clark Street  
Evanston, IL 60208-1143 |

### Health Plans

| Plan Name | Northwestern University Medical PPO Premier Plan  
Northwestern University Medical PPO Select Plan  
Northwestern University Medical HDHP Plan/  
Northwestern University HSA Value Plan  
Northwestern University HMO Illinois |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Plan Number | PPO: 506  
HMO: 514 |
| Group Numbers | PPO: 906161, 806161, 006168, 006171  
HMO: H56670 |
| Date Established | PPO: May 1, 1974  
HMO: January 1, 1989 |
| Type of Plan | PPO: Self-insured welfare benefit plan  
HMO: Fully insured welfare benefit plan |
| Plan Year | January 1 – December 31 |
| Claims Administrator | Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois  
300 East Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601  
800-654-7385  
Express Scripts, Inc.  
Attn: STD Accts  
PO Box 66538  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6583  
800-451-6245 |
| Trustee | PPO and HMO prescription drugs:  
Northern Trust  
50 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60603 |
| Contributions | Employer and employee paid |

*Continued…*
### Dental Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PPO: Northwestern University Dental Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMO:</td>
<td>Northwestern University First Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DMO Dental Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Number</td>
<td><strong>PPO: 509</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HMO: 517</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Numbers</td>
<td><strong>PPO: F019106-0001</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HMO: 378954</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Established</td>
<td><strong>PPO: Premier and Select PPO – May 1, 1974; Value</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PPO – January 1, 2007</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HMO: January 1, 1991</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Plan</td>
<td><strong>PPO: Self-insured welfare benefit plan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HMO: Fully insured welfare benefit plan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Year</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Administrator</td>
<td><strong>PPO: Dearborn National</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1020 31st Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Downers Grove, IL 60515-5591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(800) 721-7987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HMO: First Commonwealth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>550 W Jackson Blvd, 8th Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chicago, IL 60661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>866-494-4542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td><strong>PPO: Northern Trust</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 South LaSalle Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chicago, IL 60603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>Employer and employee paid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vision Care Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Northwestern University Vision Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Number</td>
<td>9795105, 9798836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Established</td>
<td>January 1, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Plan</td>
<td>Fully insured welfare benefit plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Year</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Administrator</td>
<td>EyeMed Vision Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4000 Luxottica Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mason, OH 45040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>Employee paid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Flexible Spending Account (FSA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Name</th>
<th>Northwestern University Flexible Spending Account Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan Number</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Established</td>
<td>April 1, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Plan</td>
<td>Fringe benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Year</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Administrator</td>
<td>PayFlex Systems USA, Inc. Flex Dept. P.O. Box 3039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Omaha, NE 68103-3039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.healthhub.com">www.healthhub.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>800-284-4885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Health Savings Account (HSA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Name</th>
<th>Northwestern University Health Savings Account Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan Number</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Established</td>
<td>January 1, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Plan</td>
<td>Fringe benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Year</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Administrator</td>
<td>PayFlex Systems USA, Inc. Flex Dept. P.O. Box 3039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Omaha, NE 68103-3039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.healthhub.com">www.healthhub.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>800-284-4885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Long Term Disability Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Name</th>
<th>Northwestern University Long Term Disability Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan Number</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Number</td>
<td>GLT-402344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Established</td>
<td>September 1, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Plan</td>
<td>Fully insured welfare benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Year</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Administrator</td>
<td>The Hartford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.O. Box 14305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lexington, KY 40512-4305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.thehartfordatwork.com">www.thehartfordatwork.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>888-541-7283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contributions

- Employer and employee paid

---

Continued…
| Term Life Insurance Plan | Plan Name | Northwestern University Basic Term Life Insurance Plan  
Northwestern University Supplemental Term Life Insurance Plan  
Northwestern University Basic Term Life Insurance Plan  
Northwestern University Supplemental Term Life Insurance Plan |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan Number</td>
<td>F019106-0001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Established</td>
<td>January 1, 2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Plan</td>
<td>Welfare benefit plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Year</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Claims Administrator     | Dearborn National  
1020 31st Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
800-348-4512 |
| Contributions            | Basic Term Life Insurance Plan – employer paid  
Supplemental Term Life Insurance Plan, Spouse Term Life Insurance Plan and Child Term Life Insurance Plan – employee paid |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long Term Care Insurance</th>
<th>Plan Name</th>
<th>Northwestern University Long Term Care Insurance Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan Number</td>
<td>0010095 TQ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Established</td>
<td>January 1, 2001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Plan</td>
<td>Welfare benefit plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Year</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Claims Administrator     | CNA  
333 S. Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60604 |
| Contributions            | Employee paid |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Travel Insurance</th>
<th>Plan Name</th>
<th>Northwestern University Business Travel Insurance Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan Number</td>
<td>SR227384</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Established</td>
<td>January 1 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Plan</td>
<td>Welfare benefit plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Year</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Claims Administrator      | Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company  
2001 Market Street  
#1500  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
800-351-7500 |
| Contributions             | Employer paid |

Continued…
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Assistance Plans</th>
<th>Plan Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northwestern University Employee Reduced Tuition Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northwestern University Employee Portable Tuition Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northwestern University Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northwestern University Dependent Reduced Tuition Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northwestern University Dependent Portable Tuition Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Name</th>
<th>Plan Number</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
<th>Type of Plan</th>
<th>Plan Year</th>
<th>Claims Administrator</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>513</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuition assistance plan</td>
<td>January 1 – December 31</td>
<td>Northwestern University 720 University Place Evanston, IL 60208-1143 847-491-7513</td>
<td>Employer paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All plans except Employee Portable &amp; Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plans: September 1, 1985</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Employee Portable Tuition Plan: September 1, 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Employee NU Certificate Tuition Plan: January 1, 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your ERISA Rights

All participants are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Participant Rights
ERISA provides that all participants shall be entitled to:

- Receive Information about the University-sponsored benefit plans.
- Examine, without charge, at the plan administrator’s office and at other specified locations, such as worksites, all documents governing each plan, including insurance contracts, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the plan administrator with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- Obtain, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and an updated summary plan description. The plan administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
- Receive a summary of each plan’s annual report. The plan administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.
- Continue health care coverage for yourself, your spouse, or your dependents (including civil union partners and their children) if there is a loss of coverage under a plan as a result of a qualifying event. You or your dependents may have to pay for such coverage. Review this summary plan description and the documents governing these plans on the rules concerning your COBRA continuation coverage rights.
- Reduce or eliminate, if applicable, exclusionary periods of coverage for preexisting conditions under the group health programs, if you have creditable coverage from another plan. You should be provided a certificate of creditable coverage, free of charge, from your group health plan or health insurance issuer when you lose coverage under the plan, when you become entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, when your COBRA continuation coverage ceases, if you request it before losing coverage, or if you request it up to 24 months after losing coverage. Without evidence of creditable coverage, you may be subject to a preexisting condition exclusion for 12 months (18 months for late enrollees) after your enrollment date in your coverage.

Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries
In addition to creating rights for plan participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the University-sponsored plans. The people who operate these plans (called “fiduciaries”) have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other participants and beneficiaries. No one, including the University or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.
Enforce Your Rights
If your claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance:

- If you request a copy of plan documents or a plan’s latest annual report and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to $110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of a plan administrator.

- If you have a claim for a welfare benefit that is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court. In addition, if you disagree with the plan administrator’s decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a medical child support order, you may file suit in federal court.

- If it should happen that the fiduciaries of a plan misuse the plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a federal court.

The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

Assistance with Your Questions
If you have any questions about a University-sponsored benefit plan, you should contact the Benefits Division at 847-491-7513.

If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the University, you should contact the nearest office of the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.