



Administrative Policies and Procedures

Procedure Number	Subject	Effective Date	Revised Date
HR-1.4.07	Group Insurance	07/01/07	

1.0 Purpose

To prescribe conditions under which an employee may subscribe to Group coverages.

2.0 Policy

All regular employees with a work commitment of one-half time or more are eligible for Group Insurance.

3.0 Procedure

3.1 Initial Enrollment

All employees must enroll within 31 days of initial employment or eligibility date.

3.2 Open Enrollment

Subsequent enrollments for any Group Insurance must wait until the next open enrollment period. Subsequent employee enrollment after the first 31 days of employment in the USG Dental plan is prohibited.

3.3 Changes in Coverage

A change in insurance coverage may be made only during the open enrollment period unless the employee has had a qualifying event. Examples of a qualifying event are marriage, divorce, loss of a dependent, birth, or adoption of a child, loss of spouse's employment, etc. The change in coverage must be made within 31 days of the qualifying event. Appropriate documentation must accompany any change request.

3.4 Retirement

Upon retirement from Bainbridge College and the University System of Georgia as defined in the Board of Regents policy, section 802.09, an Employee is eligible to continue Group Health, Dental and Life Insurance with BC participation in the cost.

3.5 Health and Dental Insurance Upon Retirement

Eligible employees may continue the same Health and Dental Insurance Coverage held immediately prior to retirement. The institution will continue participation in the premiums for an employee's Health Insurance upon retirement.

3.6 Life Insurance



Eligible employees may retain the Basic Life Insurance coverage amount with no change in the BC participation in the premium. The amount of Contributory (Supplemental) Life Insurance to be retained upon retirement will be determined by the age and the date the employee became insured. There is no employer participation in premiums.

Note: Eligibility to continue benefits into retirement is different from being eligible for retirement from the Teacher's Retirement System of Georgia.

4.0 Benefits for Dependents of Deceased Employees, Disabled Employees or Retirees

The dependents of a deceased employee, a disabled employee, or a retiree may remain in the group health and life insurance programs of the University System of Georgia consistent with the following provisions:

4.1 Dependents of Deceased Employees With Less Than 10 Years of Continuous Benefited Service

If an employee with less than 10 years of continuous benefited service dies while in active service with the University System, his/her dependents shall remain eligible to participate in the group health insurance program for a period of 12 consecutive months following the death of the employee. The University System shall continue to pay the employer portion for the cost of the group health insurance for the surviving dependents for this period of 12 consecutive months.

Participation in the group healthcare plan may continue after the 12-month period under the provisions of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 ("COBRA"). University System participation in the cost shall cease. The terms and conditions of COBRA participation that are described in the University System of Georgia's healthcare plan summary documents shall apply.

If a deceased employee with less than 10 years of continuous benefited service had elected to participate in the dependent life insurance program prior to his/her death, his/her dependents shall remain eligible to continue to participate in this program for a period of 12 consecutive months following the death of the employee. The surviving dependent(s) will be responsible for the entire cost of the dependent life insurance. At the conclusion of this 12-month period, a dependent will have individual policy conversion privileges.

4.2 Dependents of Deceased Disabled Employees With Less Than 9.5 Years of Continuous Benefited Service

Those employees who become permanently and totally disabled and who have less than 9.5 years of continuous benefited service with the University System shall remain in the group health insurance program for a maximum of 12 consecutive months following the receipt of the required documentation of a disability (Section 802.1005). If a disabled employee dies during this 12-



month period, his/her dependents shall remain eligible to participate in the group health insurance program for the remainder of the 12-month period. The University System shall continue to pay the employer portion for the cost of group health insurance for the surviving dependents for the remainder of the 12-month period.

Participation in the group healthcare plan may continue after the 12-month period under the provisions of COBRA. University System participation in the cost shall cease. The terms and conditions of COBRA participation that are described in the University System of Georgia's healthcare plan summary documents shall apply.

If a permanently and totally disabled employee with less than 9.5 years of continuous benefited service had elected to participate in the group life and/or dependent life insurance programs prior to becoming disabled, plan coverage will be permitted for a maximum of 12 consecutive months following the receipt of the required documentation of a disability. If a disabled employee dies during this 12-month period, his/her dependents shall remain eligible to participate in the dependent life insurance program for the remainder of the 12-month period. The surviving dependents will be responsible for the entire cost of the dependent life insurance. At the conclusion of this 12-month period, a dependent will have individual policy conversion privileges.

4.3 Dependents of Deceased Employees With At Least 10 Years of Continuous Benefited Service

If an employee with at least 10 years of continuous benefited service dies while in active service with the University System of Georgia, his/her dependents shall remain eligible to continue participating in the group health insurance program. The University System shall continue to pay the employer portion of the cost of group health insurance for the surviving dependents. If a deceased employee with at least 10 years of continuous benefited service had elected to participate in the dependent life insurance program prior to his/her death, his/her dependents shall remain eligible to continue participating in this program. The surviving dependents will be responsible for the entire cost of the dependent life insurance.

4.4 Dependents of Deceased Retirees

Upon the death of a retiree (Section 802.0902), his/her dependents shall remain eligible to continue participating in the group health insurance program. The University System shall continue to pay the employer portion of the cost of group health insurance for the surviving dependents.

If a deceased retiree had elected to participate in the dependent life insurance program while in active service, his/her dependents shall remain eligible to continue participating in this program. The surviving dependents will be responsible for the entire cost of the dependent life insurance.



In no event shall the spouse of the deceased continue in the group after remarriage. Dependent children may remain in the group until they reach the legal age of majority or until they become eligible for another group benefits plan. The definition of dependent children as defined in the University System of Georgia's healthcare summary plan documents shall apply.

Eligibility in the group plans will cease for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- Failure to remit premiums in a timely manner;
- Remarriage of the spouse;
- A dependent child no longer meets the definition of a "qualified dependent" under the plan's provision;

- The dependent becomes covered by another group health plan; and/or
- The plans are no longer offered to any employees.

5.0 Continuation Rights

In addition to the specific situations covered above, an individual member is also entitled to continuation of group health coverage under the following conditions as defined in the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA):

- 5.1 Employee, spouse, and dependent eligibility for up to eighteen (18) months for loss of coverage due to an employee's reduction in work hours, voluntary resignation, lay-off for economic reasons, or discharge, except for gross misconduct.
- 5.2 A member loses continuation coverage if the group cancels all health plans for all employees, the member does not pay the required monthly premium, or the member gets other coverage by re-employment, remarriage, or Medicare eligibility.
- 5.3 In the event of COBRA continuation of coverage, the participant must pay the full amount of the premium cost plus a small administrative charge.
- 5.4 Employees who become permanently and totally disabled and who have less than 9.5 years of continuous benefited service with the University System shall remain eligible for group health and life insurance benefits for a maximum of 12 consecutive months following the receipt of the required documentation of a disability. The University System shall continue to pay the employer portion of the cost of group insurance for disabled employees for this 12-month period.

Participation in the group healthcare plan may continue after the 12-month period under the provisions of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 ("COBRA"). University System participation in



the cost shall cease. The terms and conditions of COBRA participation that are described in the University System of Georgia's healthcare summary plan documents shall apply.

Continued participation in the group life insurance program is not covered by the provisions of COBRA. Participation in the group life insurance program may continue after the 12-month period; however, University System participation in the cost shall cease.

Employees who are deemed to be permanently and totally disabled following 9.5 years of continuous benefited service with the University System shall remain eligible for group health and life insurance benefits. The University System shall continue to pay the employer portion of the cost of group insurance for these retirees (Section 802.0902 AA).

Eligibility in the group plans will cease for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- Failure to remit premiums in a timely manner;
- Remarriage of the spouse;
- A dependent child no longer meets the definition of a "qualified dependent" under the plan's provision;

- The dependent becomes covered by another group health plan; and/or
- The plans are no longer offered to any employees (BOR Minutes, August 2005).