## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT HUMAN RESOURCES Benefits, Programs & Strategy

September 1, 2011

## RE: UC STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (UC SHIP) MANDATORY STUDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

Dear UC Student:

The University of California requires all registered students to have health insurance as a non-academic condition of enrollment at all UC campuses. This requirement applies to undergraduate, graduate, and international students. UC students are automatically enrolled in the University's student health insurance plan (UC SHIP) unless their request to waive enrollment is approved.

## History

Before health insurance was a requirement, the University witnessed sky-rocketing costs of medical insurance and increasing numbers of students with no health insurance. Medical debt was a key in students dropping out of school.

In response to these conditions, the Regents of the University of California approved a recommendation by the Committee on Educational Policy to require health insurance for all undergraduate students, effective September, 2001 and approved a similar program for all registered graduate students of the University in November of 2009. To implement the mandatory program, and in response to the University's best practices initiative, a systemwide student health insurance plan (UC SHIP) was established, to leverage the purchasing power of the University to provide strong benefits at an affordable cost.

Students who already have medical insurance that satisfies the established coverage criteria through a domestic insurance company may apply to waive enrollment in UC SHIP for one academic year. *Criteria established by the University of California for medical insurance must be met in order to waive enrollment in UC SHIP.* Please go to www.ucop.edu/ucship, click on your campus link and review waiver criteria established for 2011-12.

## **Student Program**

UC SHIP is a comprehensive program including medical, behavioral health, and pharmacy coverage; dental and vision coverage are included in the package on most campuses. This program was designed especially for students and offers excellent benefits at a low cost. Health insurance is available on a voluntary basis for eligible dependents of students enrolled in UC SHIP. UC SHIP is administered by Anthem Blue Cross and Delta Dental in partnership with campus student health services and the UC Office of the President.

Please go to <u>www.ucop.edu/ucship</u> to review UC SHIP program information. Just click on your campus link to access Benefit Booklets, benefit summaries, information on how to find a doctor, and much more.

Sincerely, UC Student Health Insurance Plan UC Office of the President