

The Value of Student Health Insurance

Your health and wellness is a critical component of your success while attending school. Enrollment in a Student Health Plan can be both a smart and economical choice, ensuring you have access to the health services you need while completing your education.

Advantages of Student Health Plans

- 1. Comprehensive Coverage** - Student Health Plans are designed to offer comprehensive coverage with lower deductibles, co-payments, out-of-pocket maximums and premiums compared to other health plans found on the state or federal marketplace.
- 2. Robust National Network** - Student Health Plans offer access to a robust national network to provide access to primary and specialty healthcare.
- 3. Preferred Pricing** - When purchasing through the college or university students receive group pricing for their health plan. Students may also utilize Financial Aid to purchase the student health plan.

Things to Consider Before Waiving the Student Health Plan

Does your current plan have a high annual deductible?

With the move towards high-deductible plans it is recommended you compare your current plan to your school's Student Health Plan. In many cases student plans offer lower deductibles and more first-dollar coverage than other types of plans.

Is your HMO plan based in your home state?

Most HMO plans are designed for a specific geographic region, such as a state, and may not have health-care providers outside of their region. If you are attending school outside of your home state your current HMO plan may not provide adequate coverage. In addition, HMO plans often require referrals from a primary care physician to see a specialist. These factors combined may severely limit your access to healthcare.

Purchasing a plan through Healthcare.gov or a state marketplace?

Many of these plans have the same geographic limitations and challenges as the HMO plans outlined above. If you are considering a plan from the Marketplace you can compare the marketplace plans to your Student Health Plan to ensure you are making your best choice.

Medicaid

Medicaid plans are run by individual states and do not offer reciprocity to other states. This presents the same challenges as with the HMO plans if you are attending school outside of your home state. If you are attending school in your home state and choose to go with Medicaid you should be aware, not all providers accept Medicaid and finding a Medicaid provider accepting new patients can be challenging. Before choosing Medicaid, it should also be noted some states assign Medicaid based on county of residence. If you will be in a different part of your state when you attend school, you may have to travel significant distances to receive care.

Prior to waiving the Student Health Plan contact your insurance provider to let them know the city & state where you will be attending college to ensure coverage is available.