



Bacterial Meningitis and Health Insurance Requirements

Sponsored by the International Student Services Office (ISSO) at
A&M-Commerce. There are 27 slides in this presentation.



Why is this presentation important?

This presentation will discuss the Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination requirements and the A&M System health insurance requirements for all new international students enrolled at an A&M System school.



Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination

Effective October 1, 2013 the state of Texas requires all students (**under age 22**) entering an institution of higher education (public or private) in Texas to receive a vaccination against bacterial meningitis or meet certain criteria to decline the vaccination 10 days prior to the first day of the semester.

For more information and instructions on how to submit your proof of vaccination please visit the previous page Online Orientation for a link.



Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination

- Receiving the vaccination is not enough...students must submit the proof of vaccination through their myLeo account.
- A link to instructions are provided on the previous Online Orientation page.
- The only vaccinations accepted are MCV4 and MPSV4



Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination

- Students are strongly encouraged to receive the vaccination prior to arriving in the U.S.
- The cost of the vaccination in the U.S. may range from \$20-\$200 and the Commerce and Dallas area experiences shortages of vaccinations each semester.
- All proof of vaccination **MUST** be translated into English and legible or it will be rejected.



A&M System Requirements

All international students studying at an A&M-System school are required to have the Texas A&M University System Student Health Insurance Plan (SSHIP).

Only students who meet one of the System allowed exceptions will be granted a waiver from the mandatory enrollment in the SSHIP.



Allowed Exceptions to the SSHIP

The A&M System allows limited exceptions to the mandatory SSHIP enrollment requirement. The following slides will present the allowed exceptions.



PLEASE NOTE THAT NON-SSHIP HEALTH INSURANCE
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS IT IS A PART OF THE
ALLOWED SYSTEM EXCEPTIONS!



Government Scholarship

Students that are sponsored by a foreign government recognized by the U.S. or certain international, government-sponsored, or non-governmental organizations, and the student is covered under a health insurance plan that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act may be allowed an exception.

If the health plan does not include medical evacuation and repatriation insurance then a separate rider must be purchased providing coverage at equal limits to the SSHIP.



U.S. Government Scholarship

Students that are sponsored by a U.S. government scholarship and the student is covered under a health insurance plan that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act may be granted an exception.

If the health plan does not include medical evacuation and repatriation insurance then a separate rider must be purchased providing coverage at equal limits to the SSHIP



Employment-provided Health Care Plan

Students that are enrolled in an employer-provided group health plan that is compliant with the ACA may be granted an exception.

If the health plan does not include medical evacuation and repatriation insurance then a separate rider must be purchased providing coverage at equal limits to the SSHIP.



Employment-provided Health Care Plan

Employment based will include students who have been awarded a full-time assistantship. Please note that there is a 90 day waiting period before any graduate assistantship (GA) insurance is effective.



Student is Outside the U.S. or Enrolled in Distance Learning

F-1 students are required by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to be enrolled in a certain number of face to face classes each semester. Students studying outside the U.S. (exception for F-1 students in summer) are not required to enroll in the SSHIP.



Student Athletes

Students that are involved in intercollegiate athletics and coverage for all medical insurance is provided through a policy as part of the current sports accident medical policy approved by the A&M System Risk Management.



If you do not meet one of these allowed exceptions then you will be automatically enrolled in and charged for the SSHIP.



Please note this is an A&M System wide requirement and all international students are required to be enrolled in the SSHIP unless they meet one of the System allowed exceptions.



Enrollment in the SSHIP

The ISSO will submit an enrollment report to the SSHIP at the beginning of the fall and spring semester.

The insurance charge will appear on student's account by the end of the first week of classes. This charge is a separate charge from any tuition and fees.



Enrollment in the SSHIP for New Students for the Summer Semester

New students who begin their studies for the summer semester will be charged a pro-rated amount for the health insurance for the summer.

Students will then be charged for the insurance in the fall semester.



Enrollment in the SSHIP for New Students for the Summer Semester

PLEASE NOTE: Only students who begin their studies at A&M-Commerce during the summer semester will be charged for the insurance during the summer semester.

Coverage for the summer is included in the insurance charge for students who were enrolled in the spring semester at A&M-Commerce.



How often will a student be charged?

Students will be charged for the insurance each fall and spring semester. Coverage is from January 1 to August 15 (tentative dates) and then from August 16 to December 31.

Students who begin their studies in the summer semester will be charged a pro-rated amount for the insurance to provide coverage until the fall when they will be charged again.



When do students need to pay the insurance?

Payment for the insurance must be received by the Financial Services Office no later than the 12th day of class for fall and spring and no later than the 5th class day for new students beginning the summer semester.

Failure to pay for your health insurance by the 12th day of class may result in your classes being dropped.



What if I meet one of the exceptions?

Be sure to follow the instructions provided by the ISSO to report your waiver exception.

The deadline to submit your waiver eligibility is on the 5th day of classes each semester. Students who submit any waiver eligibility after the 5th day of class will be required to pay the insurance charge and the ISSO will assist the student with processing a refund with the SSHIP.



What if I have already purchased health insurance prior to arriving?

PLEASE NOTE that ONLY students who meet one of the allowed exceptions will be waived from the mandatory enrollment in the SSHIP.

Even if you are already covered under a separate health insurance plan you will still be required to enroll in the SSHIP if you do not meet one of the System allowed exceptions.



Full-time Graduate Assistantships

Students with full-time assistantships will need make sure that they are enrolled in the GA insurance for the semester. You may contact Cynthia Todhunter at:

Cynthia.Todhunter@tamuc.edu

903-886-5049



Foreign Government Scholarship

Students who have insurance through a foreign or U.S. government scholarship will be required to submit their waiver eligibility information to the SSHIP by the 5th day of class each semester.

Failure to submit your request by the deadline will result in you being charged for the insurance.



Employment-provided Health Care Plan

Students who have insurance through a employment provided health care (spouse or parents) will be required to submit their waiver eligibility information to the SSHIP by the 5th day of class each semester.

Failure to submit your request by the deadline will result in you being charged for the insurance.



Student Athletes

Student athletes will be automatically enrolled in the System approved athlete health insurance provider. The insurance charge will be placed on the account as a separate charge and the payment deadline is the same students enrolled in the SSHIP.



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ALLOWED SYSTEM EXCEPTIONS!



If you have any questions please contact the ISSO at
intl.stu@tamuc.edu or call 903-886-5097.