

The U.S. Health Care Insurance Law and You

IMPORTANT – This information applies to UCEAP students, who may be affected by new Federal health insurance regulations.

Several provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the U.S. health care reform law, went into effect on January 1, 2014.

The ACA requires most adults to have public or private health insurance in the U.S., for every month of the year, or face a financial penalty (See #3 below). The ACA applies to most Americans, including students, [unless you qualify for an exemption](#).

FACTS you need to know as a UCEAP participant:

1. You are required to have health insurance that meets the Minimum Essential Coverage requirement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) even if you are outside the U.S. Generally, U.S. citizens living or studying abroad are subject to the same individual shared responsibility provision as U.S. citizens living in the United States.
2. As a UCEAP participant you are covered by the UCEAP travel insurance while on UCEAP. Access the policy brochure through your Pre-Departure Checklist. This policy does not constitute comprehensive health insurance coverage (often referred to as “major medical coverage”) and does not satisfy a person’s individual obligation to secure the required Minimum Essential Coverage under the ACA.
3. *You may be subject to income tax penalties* if you do not obtain health insurance that meets ACA standards for Minimum Essential Coverage starting with the 2014 calendar year.
4. In 2014, the tax penalty is \$95 per individual or 1% of income, whichever is greater. The fee increases every year. In 2015 it’s 2% of income or \$325 per person. In 2016 and later years it’s 2.5% of income or \$695 per person. The fine will be assessed based on the number of months without coverage. You may be exempt from penalties if you are a UCEAP participant for 3 months or less. Contact www.coveredca.com or www.healthcare.gov and find out if you qualify for a temporary exemption of the tax penalty.

Your OPTIONS to obtain ACA-compliant health insurance

1. Depending on your UC campus, you may be eligible to enroll in your campus student health insurance plan on a voluntary basis. UC-sponsored student health plans are fully compliant with health care reform laws. Review the plan benefits to ensure you

understand the terms of coverage. Visit your [Student Health Services](#) website for information on eligibility requirements, how to enroll and costs of voluntary enrollment.

2. If you attend UC Berkeley, you are automatically enrolled in your campus-sponsored health insurance. While you have the option to waive enrollment, you may want to keep the plan so you will be covered as required by ACA. You can find information about waiving enrollment in UCB's campus-sponsored plan at www.uhs.berkeley.edu.
3. You may enroll in a plan offered by Covered California during open enrollment. See www.coveredca.com. Carefully compare costs and benefits among plans. All Covered California plans are compliant with the health care reform law. If you decide to waive enrollment in your campus-sponsored insurance and purchase a Covered California plan, be aware that some plans do not meet the University of California minimum coverage criteria to waive enrollment.

For Information about the Affordable Care Act, visit:

www.healthcare.gov

www.coveredca.com

updated 12/19/2014
