

Graduate Assistant Health Insurance Program

In the Fall 2004 semester Florida International University began providing the subsidized health insurance to all graduate students holding a 0.5 FTE full-term appointment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (Class Code 9184), Graduate Research Assistant (Class Code 9182) or Graduate Assistant (Class Code 9185). In the remainder of this notice, all three classes will be referred to by the generic category of Graduate Assistant. Presidential Fellows and Dissertation Fellows are also included in the Graduate Assistant Health Insurance Program.

The health insurance plan is described in a brochure accessible through the website of Hill, Chesson and Woody (<http://www.hillchesson.com/fiugrad.htm>), which is the company managing the Graduate Assistant Health Insurance Program.

The subsidy is \$1,083 on an annual basis which represents approximately 75% of the premium cost. The remainder will be deducted from the student's payroll check for the first full pay period each semester (\$181 in fall and \$181 in spring for an academic year appointment – coverage is for 12 months; \$241 for spring only appointment – coverage is for spring and summer; \$121 for summer only).

All Graduate Assistants are required to have this health insurance plan unless their insurance company will certify equivalent coverage. Graduate Assistants wishing to demonstrate equivalent coverage should download **Alternate Insurance Compliance 2005-2006.doc** from the UGS website (<http://gradschool.fiu.edu>). This form must be submitted before the end of the first week of classes in order to prevent the payroll deduction being made. Graduate Assistants certifying equivalent coverage will not receive a subsidy for their insurance payments.

The Graduate Assistant Health Insurance Program meets all the requirements of a health insurance program for international students. International students receiving a Graduate Assistant appointment will be enrolled in this health insurance program.

Graduate Assistants may enroll their dependents by completing a dependent application form and mailing a cashier's check or money order payable to UNICARE LIFE & HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY to P.O. Box 52207 Durham, NC 27717. The dependent application form is available online at <http://www.hillchesson.com/fiugrad.htm>.

If you have questions regarding the Graduate Assistant Health Insurance Program please send an email to gahealth@fiu.edu. For questions regarding benefits and claims, please contact UNICARE at 1-800-696-9776. For enrollment and eligibility questions, please contact Hill, Chesson and Woody at 1-800-579-8022.