GOAL: To provide clarity for students about who is eligible for care at the Center for Health and Wellbeing.

BACKGROUND

The health fee – part of the University’s comprehensive fee - is paid on a semester basis by all undergraduate students taking 9 or more credit hours and by all graduate student taking 9 or more credits. The fee serves as the Center’s primary source of funding for Center staff and services, and payment of the fee is a requirement for receiving services and care at the Center. Payment of the health fee provides clinical (medical and nutrition) and counseling service for students at Women’s Health, Primary Care, and Counseling Services and provides injury prevention, evaluation, and rehabilitation services for varsity student athletes through the Center’s Athletic Medicine division. The fee also provides programming and outreach initiatives designed to educate students about important issues related to personal and community health. Psychiatry services and laboratory services are provided on a fee-for-service basis to students who have paid the health fee.

Each area of the Center for Health and Wellbeing has a specific focus of activity. Athletic Medicine personnel provide care only for students who are varsity athletes. While the Counseling Center and the Primary Care/Women’s Health areas see all eligible students, it is important that each of these areas use their resources in a manner which makes the best use of their staff and serves students most effectively. The Counseling Center’s strategy of employing a brief therapy model is an example of this approach. Clients are seen for a limited number of sessions in order to allow maximal access for all students to counseling services. Successful use of this model implies that counseling staff are mindful of the needs of both individual students and the larger student population in their decisions about which students require only a session or two, which students will benefit from group therapy, and which students should be referred to a community provider for long term and/or intensive work.

It is important that students understand when their eligibility for care ends at the Center. Clinicians and counselors involved in ongoing therapeutic work with students should advise them about the need to make arrangements for ongoing care once their eligibility for service at the Center expires.

Specific student populations merit special note. International students holding F-1 or J-1 visa status must purchase the student health insurance policy and pay the health fee regardless of their credit load.

POLICY

In order to provide services for all students and utilize resources efficiently and effectively, the Center for Health and Wellbeing clearly identifies which members of the University community are eligible for care through the Center. This information is widely available to students and to Center and University staff.
PROCEDURES
The health fee provides students with access to Center services in accordance with the following guidelines:

Eligible individuals
- Undergraduate students taking 9 or more credits must pay the health fee and are eligible for services through the Center.
- Undergraduate student taking 6-8 credits may pay the full health fee and gain eligibility for services through the Center.
- Graduate students taking 9 or more credits (including Grad 903) must pay the health fee and are eligible for services through the Center.
- Graduate students taking 5-8 credits (including Grad 902) may pay the full health fee and gain eligibility for services through the Center.
- International students holding F-1 or J-1 must pay the health fee and purchase the University-sponsored health insurance policy and are eligible for services through the Center.

Individuals not eligible for services
- Undergraduate students taking less than 6 credits.
- Graduate student taking less than 5 credits (including Grad 901).
- Spouses or civil union partners of undergraduate or graduate students are not eligible to receive services at the Center, but are eligible to purchase the University-sponsored health insurance if their partner has also done so.
- Individuals who have paid the health fee and withdraw from the University during an academic semester are no longer eligible for care at the Center. In order to allow for an orderly transition of their care, these individuals may be seen for a brief period of time – not to exceed sixty days - after their withdrawal until arrangements for ongoing care is completed. These arrangements must be discussed with the Medical Director or Counseling Center Director and authorized by the Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing.

All students purchasing the health fee must purchase Student Health Insurance or be able to demonstrate that they have a policy in place which provides equivalent coverage.

Students who have paid for student health insurance and who withdraw or fall below 6 credits (undergraduate students) or 5 credits (graduate students) may keep the insurance policy for the remainder of the semester from which they withdraw, but are not eligible for Center services. (See Procedures above for time-limited, temporary exceptions.)

The Center does not bill individuals on a ‘fee for service’ basis for Primary Care, Women’s Health, or Counseling Services.

Health fee coverage periods
- Fall semester August 1 – December 31
- Spring semester January 1 – July 31

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