

# Affordable Care Act [ACA] & College Students

## Basic Information You Should Know

Health insurance options available to college students:

### 1. Your Parents

You can remain on your parents insurance until age 26 (even if married).



### 2. Student Health Insurance Plan [SHIP]

Some college health centers offer an affordable health insurance plan for students from outside insurance companies. The plan helps with expenses that are not covered by your student health fee (hospitalization, medicines, referrals, surgery, etc.). Inquire with your campus Health Services to learn more.



### 3. The Exchange

Also known as the Marketplace, this is a key feature of the ACA. Shop online to find the right health insurance plan for you. Residents may enroll ONLY in plans within his or her state. You can't be denied or charged more due to a preexisting condition.



[www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)

### 4. Medicaid and CHIP

If you can't afford insurance, and your income is within the state mandated range, you may be entitled to Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). Medicaid eligibility varies by state, but generally applies to low income individuals including children, pregnant women, some non-citizens, and persons with disabilities. CHIP is primarily intended for persons up to age 19, and eligibility is determined by the Department of Children and Families or the Social Security Administration.



### 5. Other Private Insurance Plans

There are a variety of options available to students in the private market. Catastrophic coverage is a popular option for adults under 30 years of age. This plan is less expensive, and generally provides coverage for major events such as hospitalizations or surgery. They may

cover up to three primary care visits per year and preventative care at no cost. They'll also cover essential health benefits, but ONLY AFTER you have meet your deductible (no more than \$6,350 for an individual).



What If I Decide to Not Get Health Insurance?



## The ACA Penalty Explained

Starting in 2014, the Affordable Care Act mandates that most people have insurance. However, individuals who earn less than approximately \$10,000 annually are exempt. Many college students fall into this category. However, if a student is claimed as a dependent, the penalty is based on the parents' (household) income.

### The Numbers:

- Starting in 2014, the penalty is \$95 or 1% of annual income, whichever is highest.
- Penalties will increase each year thereafter.

## FAQ's

### What is the premium tax credit?

The premium tax credit helps low-income individuals and families afford health insurance. Uninsured individuals who earn between \$11,490 and \$45,960 may be entitled to this credit. The premium tax credit cannot be applied to health plans purchased outside of the marketplace, and is based on the parent's household income if claimed as a dependent.



### Where do I go to determine additional options for veterans?

Veterans may be eligible for healthcare benefits through the local Veterans Association.

<http://www.va.gov/health>



Learn more about the ACA at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)