

Annual Open Enrollment – Benefits FAQs

1. What is Open Enrollment?

Open Enrollment is your once-a-year opportunity to review, enroll in, or make changes to your benefit elections, including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and other voluntary benefits.

2. When is the Open Enrollment period?

Open Enrollment begins on **May 1, 2026**, and ends on **May 15, 2026**. All elections must be submitted by **11:59 PM on the end date**.

3. What happens if I don't take any action?

If you do not elect or change your benefits during Open Enrollment, your current coverage in the medical, dental, vision, long-term disability and employee life insurance plans will roll over. After May 15, you can change your coverage only if you have an eligible status change.

4. What changes can I make during Open Enrollment?

You can:

- Enroll in or waive coverage.
- Add or remove dependents.
- Switch medical, dental, vision, life, and long-term disability plans.
- Enroll in or modify voluntary benefits (e.g., life insurance, accident, critical illness), hospital indemnity).
- Retirees **under age 65** may elect or waive medical, dental, and vision coverage, and may also add or drop a dependent.
- Retirees **over age 65** may only elect, waive, or make changes to dental and vision plans for themselves and their dependents. Medical plan elections or changes apply to eligible dependents only. When completing the Retiree Open Enrollment Election Form, if you are not enrolling a spouse or dependent under age 65, select 'Waive Coverage. This selection will not impact your Medicare Supplemental plan coverage.
 - Enrollment/changes to the Medicare Supplemental plan, Special Medicfill, can be made during the Medicare Open Enrollment in October.

5. Where do I enroll or make changes?

Visit our [Virtual Fair](#) website and log in to FlexNet.

6. Can I make changes after Open Enrollment ends?

Only if you experience a **Qualifying Life Event (QLE)** such as:

- Marriage or divorce
- Birth or adoption of a child
- Loss or gain of other coverage

Changes due to QLEs must be submitted within **30 days** of the event.

7. As a new employee, what steps do I need to take during Open Enrollment?

If your hire date is effective May 1, 2026, or June 1, 2026, you must make your new hire elections within 30 days of your hire date. Effective July 1, 2026, your current medical plan and coverage level will transition to a comparable option. Your dental, vision, life, and long-term disability elections will automatically roll over.

8. Do I need to submit proof for my dependents?

Yes. If you're adding a new spouse or child, you'll be asked to provide **supporting documentation** (e.g., marriage certificate, birth certificate). You may upload supporting documentation in [FlexNet](#) or use the [Secure Document Submission Form](#).

9. Will there be any changes to the benefit plans this year?

No. **Your benefit plan providers and coverage are not changing.** Everything you rely on today will remain in place for the upcoming plan year. Review your options during Open Enrollment to ensure your elections still meet your needs.

- **After a thorough review of plan utilization, claims and costs, medical rates will increase for the upcoming plan year to maintain a sustainable and competitive benefits program.**

- **The rate increase for the Highmark Blue Choice PPO Plan will be slightly higher than for our other medical plans.** This plan has experienced higher overall medical expenses, and the premiums collected for the plan have not fully covered these expenses. This Open Enrollment is a good opportunity for you to explore other medical plan options, like the Aetna CDH Gold plan, which features an employer-funded Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). To see how the plans compare, review our Medical Plans at a Glance chart in the Benefits Guide, available at udel.edu/benefitfair.
- **Dental premiums will increase for the upcoming plan year and will remain fully employer-paid.** There will be no changes to vision, life insurance or long-term disability rates. You can view all the rates at udel.edu/0011918.

Working Spouse Surcharge Verification Form.

- This form is **required annually during Open Enrollment** for spouses with access to other employer-sponsored coverage.
 - Visit the [Medical Insurance](#) website for program details and to access the form.
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10. How can I learn more about my benefits?

Attend one of the **Open Enrollment information sessions**, visit the [Virtual Benefit Fair](#), or contact [Benefits/Human Resources](#).

11. What if I have technical issues enrolling?

If you have trouble accessing the enrollment site or submitting elections, contact [Benefits/Human Resources](#).

12. Do I need to complete the Dependent Coordination of Benefits (COB) form?

You are required to complete the COB form **if you are newly enrolling a dependent or changing your medical plan.**

FAQs for Spouses Working at the University

13. Can my UD spouse and I both enroll separately in benefits?

Yes, but it may not be the most cost-effective option. In many cases, one spouse can cover the other as a dependent, or each can have their own individual coverage. Compare your options carefully.

14. Can we "double cover" ourselves or our dependents?

No. Our policy does not allow for dual coverage under the company's health plans. You and your spouse must coordinate your elections to avoid duplicate coverage.

15. Which UD spouse should cover the family?

Either spouse may choose to enroll in family coverage to include the other spouse and any dependents. Review premium costs and coverage options to decide which makes the most financial sense.

16. Do both UD spouses need to complete Open Enrollment if only one is enrolling the family?

Yes. Both employees must log into the benefits system [FlexNet](#):

- The enrolling spouse will elect the coverage and list dependents.
 - The other spouse will waive medical/dental/vision coverage, but should still review and elect mandatory benefits like life or disability insurance.
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17. How does this affect life and disability insurance?

Each spouse must elect their own life and disability insurance independently. Coverage amounts and costs are based on each individual's salary and election choices.

18. Do I need to complete the Dependent Coordination of Benefits (COB) form?

You are required to complete the COB form **if you are newly enrolling a dependent or changing your medical plan and covering a dependent.**