


<p>Office of Employee Benefits</p> <p>Administrative Manual</p> 	RETIRED EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT	220
	INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2003	
	LATEST REVISION DATE: September 2020	
	PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for determining the eligibility of Retired Employees for The University of Texas Uniform Group Insurance Program and their enrollment options	
	SCOPE: Retired Employees of The University of Texas System and their Dependents	
	STATUTORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFERENCES: Texas Insurance Code, Chapter 1601	

1.0 BACKGROUND

This Policy describes the Uniform Group Insurance Program (Program) coverage options for Retired Employees. Program coverage options for Employees are described in Policy 210 of this Administrative Manual. Program coverage options for Dependents are described in Policy 230 of this Administrative Manual.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR UT GROUP INSURANCE

A Retired Employee of a University of Texas (UT) institution is benefits eligible if the Retired Employee meets the following eligibility requirements. For a quick reference, download the [Retirement Eligibility Flowchart](#).

2.1 Employee Who Retired On or Prior to August 31, 2003

An individual who was participating as a Retired Employee in the Program as of August 2003 may continue to participate as a Retired Employee.

A Retired Employee who was enrolled in the Program as of August 31, 2003 as a Retired Employee and subsequently cancels coverage after September 1, 2003, may be subject to Evidence of Insurability (EOI) or other restrictions, as described in this policy, if the Retired Employee wishes to re-enroll at a later date. See Policy 270 (Evidence of Insurability) and Policy 310 (Change of Status) of this Manual for more information.

2.2 Employee Who Retires On or After September 1, 2003

An individual who retires from a System institution after September 1, 2003 and at the time of retirement meets the requirements as described in this section will be eligible to participate in the Program as a Retired Employee.

Important: A terminating Employee who inquires about future access to benefits as a Retired Employee should be reminded that Program benefits for Employees and Retired Employees are created by statute and subject to continued funding by the Texas Legislature. Program benefits may be subject to change or even elimination in the future. In addition, terminating Employees who lack sufficient years of service to qualify for benefits as a Retired Employee should never be advised that they will be able to return to UT System employment at a later date in order to qualify for Program coverage as a Retired Employee.

2.2.1 Individual Employed at UT during August 2003

2.2.1.1 Employee Retires on or after September 1, 2003

An individual who was employed at a System institution in a benefits-eligible position during August 2003 and subsequently retires from the System may participate in the Program as a Retired Employee if:

- (a) The individual meets the Rule of 80 (total of age plus years of benefits eligible state service credit equals or exceeds 80), or the individual is at least age 55 with five (5) years of benefits eligible state service credit; and
- (b) The individual has at least three (3) years of benefits eligible service credit with the System for which the individual was eligible to participate in the Program; and
- (c) The individual's last place of state employment before retirement was with a System institution; and
- (d) The individual retires from System under the jurisdiction of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS); the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS); or the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) established by Chapter 830, Government Code or any other federal or state statutory retirement program to which the System has made employer contributions.

2.2.1.2 Employee Terminates Employment On or After September 1, 2003 Without Retiring

An individual who was actively employed at a System institution in a benefits-eligible position during August 2003 and later terminates System employment is eligible to enroll in the Program as a Retired Employee if the individual subsequently meets all of the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 2.2.1.1 of this Policy, regardless of whether the Employee is subsequently re-employed by the same or another UT System institution.

Important: An individual who withdraws from membership from his or her retirement system or program (TRS, ERS or ORP) prior to retirement (e.g., withdraws their accumulated contributions from TRS) loses eligibility to participate in the UT Uniform Group Insurance Program.

2.2.2 New Hire Begins Employment On Or After September 1, 2003

An individual who begins employment at System in a benefits-eligible position on or after September 1, 2003 must meet all of the following requirements in order to be eligible for participation in the Program as a Retired Employee:

- (a) The individual meets the Rule of 80 (total of age plus years of benefits eligible state service credit equals or exceeds 80) with at least ten (10) years of benefits eligible state service credit, or is at least age 65 with ten (10) years of total benefits eligible state service credit; and
- (b) The individual has at least ten (10) years of benefits eligible service credit with the System; and
- (c) The individual's last state employment before retirement was with an institution of the System; and
- (d) The individual retires under the jurisdiction of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS); the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS); or the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) established by Chapter 830, Government Code or any other federal or state statutory retirement program to which the System has made employer contributions.

2.2.3 Former Employee Who Met Retired Employee Eligibility Requirements On or Before August 31, 2003

A former Employee who met the eligibility requirements for Retired Employee group insurance that were in place on August 31, 2003 (as stated in Section 2.2.1.1 of this Policy) as of that date, but who terminated employment before August 2003 and elected not to retire upon termination will continue to be eligible to retire under the requirements as described in Section 2.2.1.1 of this Policy.

2.2.4 Former Employee Who Did Not Meet Retired Employee Eligibility Requirements On or Before August 31, 2003

A former System Employee who terminated employment prior to August 2003 and did not meet the eligibility requirements for Retired Employee group insurance that were in place on August 31, 2003 (as stated in Section 2.2.1.1 of this Policy) and who subsequently applies to enroll in coverage as a Retired Employee must meet the requirements for new hires on or after September 1, 2003 (as stated in Section 2.2.2 of this Policy).

Example 1: An individual terminates employment from a benefits eligible position at a UT institution on May 31, 2003 at the age of 52 with 7 years of service. She works elsewhere for 8 years and then is re-employed in a benefits eligible position at a UT institution. Since she was not employed in a benefits eligible position at a UT institution during August 2003 and did not meet the requirements for Retired

Employee group insurance that were in place at that time, she must meet the requirements in Section 2.2.2 of this Policy to be eligible for group insurance as a UT Retired Employee.

Example 2: An individual had 20 years of TRS service credit when he terminated UT employment at age 55 on December 31, 2000. At that time he went to work at another state university that participates in the ERS group insurance program without retiring from TRS. On January 1, 2012, he retires from TRS. If ERS determines he is not eligible to participate in ERS group insurance coverage as a Retired Employee, he is eligible to participate in UT group insurance as a Retired Employee under the eligibility requirements for Retired Employee group insurance that were in place on August 31, 2003 (as stated in Section 2.2.1.1 of this Policy). If he submits his application to his former UT institution Benefits Office within 31 days of TRS retirement, he is eligible to participate without a waiting period.

Example 3: An individual terminates employment from a benefits eligible position at a UT institution on May 31, 2005 at the age of 52 with 20 years of creditable service. Once her age (years and months) and creditable service add up to 80, she meets the Rule of 80 and becomes eligible to enroll in UT group insurance as a Retired Employee. If she submits her application to her former UT institution Benefits Office within 31 days following retirement from either TRS or ORP, she will be eligible to participate in the program as a Retired Employee. Per Policy 141, the waiting period will apply for UT SELECT Medical coverage due to the break between active employment and retirement. Optional coverage may begin upon enrollment.

2.2.5 Former Employee Who Meets Retired Employee Eligibility Requirements Except UT System Is Not the Last Place of State Employment

A System Employee who terminated employment and subsequently worked for another state agency or state institution of higher education and does not qualify for retiree insurance coverage under that agency or institution may be eligible to participate in the UT group insurance program if the former Employee meets the minimum applicable requirements described in this Policy and does not meet the requirements for an annuitant under the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) group insurance program or the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) group insurance program.

Example 4: An individual was employed at a UT institution on August 31, 2003. He terminates employment on December 31, 2005, with 7 years of service. He goes to work in a benefits eligible position at a Texas A&M institution. When he is ready to retire, if he does not qualify for Texas A&M coverage as a Retired Employee, he may be able to qualify for UT System program coverage. In this case, since he was employed at a UT institution on August 31, 2003, he would need only 3 years of benefits eligible service credit at a UT institution to meet the requirements in Section 2.2.2 of this Policy as a Retired Employee.

2.3 Newly Retired Employee Not Eligible for UT Group Insurance

An Employee who is enrolled in the Program and subsequently retires from the System, but does not meet any of the retirement eligibility requirements described in this section, is generally not eligible to participate in the Program as a Retired Employee. Such an individual may be eligible to participate in COBRA benefits. See Policy 250 of this Administrative Manual for information about COBRA.

If this Employee has other State service credit, he should contact the applicable retirement system to determine eligibility for insurance as a retired employee under that system. In certain limited circumstances, different systems may coordinate to ensure that all avenues for eligibility for insurance as a retired employee have been explored.

2.4 Calculation of Service Credit for UT Group Insurance as a Retired Employee

In accordance with Chapter 1601.102(c), Texas Insurance Code, the calculation of an Employee's years of UT creditable service (to determine whether they meet the required years to enroll in the UT Uniform Group Insurance Program as a Retired Employee) must be comparable to the TRS calculation of creditable years of service.

Therefore, to qualify for a year of creditable service, the Employee must be employed in a benefits-eligible position during the fiscal year and work for at least 90 days during the year or as otherwise determined by TRS. Employees participating in TRS must contact TRS for a determination of their years of creditable service. For those Employee's participating in ORP, the institution's HR or Benefit Office should calculate years of service using the same standard applicable for TRS participants, having worked at least 90 days during a given fiscal year.

2.5 Retirement for Employees with Service at More Than One UT Institution

When an individual becomes eligible for participation in the Program as a Retired Employee, the last UT institution at which this individual was employed in a benefits-eligible position is responsible for providing Retired Employee services for this individual, regardless of how many years of creditable service this individual had accumulated at another UT institution.

Example 5: An Employee worked 22 years at Institution A and transfers to Institution B. After 3 years at Institution B, he meets the Rule of 80 and retires. Institution B is responsible for enrolling this Retired Employee in the Program and maintaining his records, even though he worked many more years at Institution A prior to being employed at Institution B.

3.0 PREMIUM SHARING FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Premium sharing amounts are established under the authority of the Texas Legislature and are subject to change. Under current rules, a Retired Employee is eligible to receive the same Premium Sharing toward group insurance coverage as a benefits-eligible Full-time Employee for the following coverages:

- (a) 100% of the premium cost of health and Basic Group Term Life (GTL) coverage for the Retired Employee; and
- (b) 50% of the premium cost for the Retired Employee's dependent health coverage.

Example 5: During the last year of employment at a System institution, an Employee was working less than 40 hours and therefore was classified as part-time. This Part-time Employee received 50% of the Premium Sharing amount toward the payment of the group insurance premiums. If the eligibility requirements have been met at the time of retirement, the individual will be eligible to participate in the Program as a Retired Employee and receive 100% of Premium Sharing.

3.1 Premiums

Important: Since monthly premiums are not pro-rated, a full month's premium will be due for the first month of coverage regardless of when the coverage becomes effective during the month.

A Retired Employee is responsible for payment of the portion of the premium for Dependent health coverage that is not covered by state Premium Sharing plus the total cost of any other optional coverages for the Retired Employee and any Dependents.

3.2 Retired Employee Waives Basic Coverage Package

During a Retired Employee's initial period of retirement (first 31 days), after a qualified Change of Status event or during Annual Enrollment, the Retired Employee may elect to waive the Basic Coverage Package and receive up to one-half (50%) of the state Premium Sharing amount that would have been available to the Retired Employee for the Basic Coverage Package (described in Section 4.0 of this Policy) toward the purchase of certain voluntary coverages if the following documentation is provided to the institution Benefits Office:

- (a) proof of other group health coverage; and
- (b) proof that the Retired Employee is not enrolled in another group insurance program funded by the State of Texas.

A Retired Employee who waives the Basic Coverage Package and receives up to one-half of Premium Sharing may purchase one or more of the following optional coverages that are paid on a pre-tax basis:

- a. Dental – Retired Employee and Dependent coverage
- b. Vision – Retired Employee and Dependent coverage

Note: Voluntary Group Term Life premiums are not eligible for premium redirection.

Important: A Retired Employee who is unable to show proof of other group coverage is not eligible to receive a percentage of state Premium Sharing toward optional coverage.

4.0 RETIRED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

An individual who meets the criteria for retirement, as described in Section 2.0 of this Policy, is eligible for the Program benefits for a Retired Employee, as described in this section. A required waiting period may apply (see Policy 141 of this Administrative Manual for detailed information). Exceptions for return-to-work and disability Retired Employees are described in Sections 8.0 and 11.0 of this Policy.

Except as noted elsewhere in this Policy, Retired Employees may retain only the following Program coverages for themselves and their Dependents:

4.1 Basic Coverage Package

All Retired Employees are eligible for the Basic Coverage Package which includes participation in a System health plan and Basic Group Term Life (GTL) insurance of \$6,000. The state Premium Sharing pays the entire premium cost for the Retired Employee's Basic Coverage Package. See Section 3.0 of this Policy for more information.

4.2 Health Insurance

An Employee who retires effective the beginning of the month following the last month in which the Employee was enrolled in UT SELECT coverage as an Employee is eligible for Program coverage as a Retired Employee without a Waiting Period.

An Employee who terminates UT employment without retiring and subsequently retires any time after his or her UT SELECT Employee coverage has ended may enroll in UT health insurance, but the Waiting Period described in Section 6.0 of this policy will apply. See Section 6.0 of this policy and Policy 141 of this manual for more information about the Waiting Period.

4.3 Basic Group Term Life Coverage

Basic GTL of \$6,000 is provided to Retired Employees enrolled in the Basic Coverage Package at no cost to the Retired Employee.

Retired Employees are not eligible for Basic AD&D coverage.

Note: Employees who are receiving the Basic GTL coverage of \$40,000, who retire and enroll as a Retired Employee without a break in coverage, may opt to enroll in an individual policy up to \$34,000 (\$40,000 Employee Basic GTL minus \$6,000 Retired Employee Basic GTL) without EOI by contacting the life Carrier within 31 days from the end of the month in which retirement occurred.

Dependents of Retired Employees are not eligible for Basic GTL insurance coverage.

4.4 Voluntary Group Term Life Coverage

A newly eligible Retired Employee may elect Voluntary GTL option amounts of: \$7,000; \$10,000; \$25,000; \$50,000; or \$100,000. However, if the elected coverage is greater than the Employee coverage amount in effect at retirement, the increased amount is subject to EOI.

An individual with Voluntary GTL coverage in effect on the last date of employment prior to retirement without a break in coverage between employment and retirement may elect any of the available amounts of Voluntary GTL upon retirement that is equal to or less than the amount the individual had on the last day of employment without EOI.

Example 6: An Employee has Voluntary GTL coverage of \$40,000 (2 times annual salary). The Employee terminates active UT employment effective December 31, 2012 and retires effective January 1, 2013 without a break in coverage. This newly Retired Employee may elect Voluntary GTL coverage amounts of \$7,000; \$10,000; or \$25,000 without EOI effective January 1, 2013. EOI will be required if the individual elects Voluntary GTL coverage of \$50,000 or \$100,000.

Example 7: An Employee has Voluntary GTL coverage of \$60,000 (3 times annual salary). The Employee terminates employment effective December 31, 2010 but does not retire until September 1, 2012. This individual is not automatically eligible for Voluntary GTL upon retirement, and EOI will be required for enrollment in any of the Retired Employee Voluntary GTL amounts.

A Retired Employee is responsible for the full payment of premiums for Voluntary GTL insurance coverage.

An Employee who retires without a break in coverage may exercise the option to convert the amount of Voluntary GTL insurance coverage in effect on the last day of employment to an individual life policy without EOI. The individual must contact the life insurance Carrier and submit the required conversion forms within 31 days after the end of the month in which retirement occurred.

An Employee who has Employee Voluntary GTL and Spouse Voluntary GTL in effect and retires without a break in coverage may enroll their spouse in Voluntary GTL of \$3,000 without EOI.

4.5 Basic and Voluntary Accidental Death and Dismemberment Coverage

Retired Employees are not eligible for AD&D coverage.

There is no option available for Retired Employees to convert AD&D coverage in effect as an Employee to an individual policy with the life Carrier.

4.6 Dental and Vision Coverage

A Retired Employee may enroll in optional dental and/or vision plan. The Retired Employee also may enroll eligible Dependents in such coverage. EOI is not required for the dental and vision plans. The Retired Employee is responsible for payment of the full premiums charged for any dental and vision coverage elected, except when the Retired Employee waives the Basic Coverage Package as described in Section 3.2 of this Policy.

4.7 Short Term Disability and Long Term Disability Coverage

Retired Employees are not eligible to enroll in either Short Term Disability (STD) or Long Term Disability (LTD) insurance coverage. Any STD or LTD coverage held as an Employee will be cancelled effective the date of retirement.

If an Employee enrolled in LTD coverage becomes totally disabled and is receiving LTD benefits at the time of retirement (either due to the disability or as a regular retirement), the Employee may be eligible to continue to receive disability benefits under the disability policy until a specified age. However, it is important to note that the disability benefit may be reduced by the amount of the retirement annuity benefit.

4.9 UT FLEX Participation

Retired Employees are not eligible to participate in the Insurance Premium Redirection Plan or the UT FLEX reimbursement accounts. An Employee participating in one of the UT FLEX reimbursement accounts during the year of retirement is eligible for reimbursement only for eligible expenses incurred prior to the last day of the last month of active employment at UT System.

If the Employee's last day of active employment before retirement is August 31, this individual is eligible to utilize the grace period to incur additional expenses for reimbursement from their UT FLEX HCRA account.

5.0 ENROLLMENT

5.1 Initial Enrollment

An individual must enroll in the Program as a Retired Employee within 31 days of the date upon which the individual retires under the jurisdiction of a retirement system listed in Section 2.2.1.1(d) or 2.2(d) of this Policy. See Policy 140, Section 4.0 for details regarding effective dates of coverage.

An individual who fails to enroll within the 31 day period may not enroll until:

- (a) the next Annual Enrollment period; or
- (b) upon occurrence of a Qualified Change in Status event.

5.2 Form Required for ORP Retired Employees

A UT Employee participating in the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) must meet the requirement for enrollment as a Retired Employee and complete the Optional Retirement Program Declaration of Retirement for Group Insurance Purposes form in order to enroll in the Program. This form can be obtained from the employing institution's Benefits Office and also is available on the OEB website.

The retiring Employee must sign and date the completed form and return the original to the institution Benefits Office.

6.0 WAITING PERIODS

6.1 No Waiting Period if No Break between Employment and Retirement

An Employee who retires and enrolls in Program coverage as a Retired Employee no later than the last day of the month in which the Employee leaves the payroll as an Active Employee (the last day of employment) is eligible for Basic and Optional coverage as a Retired Employee the day after the last day of employment.

6.2 Waiting Period for Any Break between Employment and Retirement

Eligibility for Basic coverage for all other individuals who enroll in Program coverage as a Retired Employee begins on the first day of the month following the 90th day after the date that the individual completes enrollment.

Exception: There is no waiting period for an Employee who terminates employment, immediately enrolls in Program coverage as a COBRA participant, and subsequently retires from TRS or ORP and enrolls in Program coverage as a Retired Employee before the COBRA coverage terminates.

6.3 No Waiting Period for Optional Coverages

There is no waiting period for optional coverages. A Retired Employee may elect for the effective date for optional coverages to be:

- (a) the first day of retirement; or

- (b) the first of the month following retirement.

There is no waiting period to add a Dependent; however, the Retired Employee's coverage must be in effect in order for the Dependent's coverage to be effective. Coverage effective dates for a newly Retired Employee and their eligible Dependents must be consistent for each coverage type (i.e. the initial effective date for medical coverage must be the same for all covered family members).

Therefore, if the Retired Employee has a required waiting period, the Dependent's medical coverage cannot become effective until the Retired Employee's coverage becomes effective.

See Policy 141 of this Administrative Manual for more information pertaining to the waiting period.

7.0 COVERAGE CHANGES

7.1 Annual Enrollment

Retired Employees have the opportunity during each Annual Enrollment period to make the following changes to their Program coverages. The effective date of these changes will be the following September 1:

- (a) Apply to add previously-eligible Dependents to the Retired Employee's UT health coverage (no EOI required);
- (b) Enroll Retired Employee and previously-eligible Dependents to the dental and vision plans (no EOI required);
- (c) Apply to enroll in or increase Voluntary GTL coverage (EOI required for any increase in coverage); and
- (d) Drop or decrease current levels or amounts of coverages.

7.2 Mid-Year Coverage Changes

Changes cannot be made to coverage selections during the plan year unless they are the result of a qualified Change of Status. EOI may be required for enrollment in or changes to certain Program coverages during the plan year. For information about qualified status changes, see Policy 310 (Change of Status) of this Administrative Manual.

8.0 RETIRED EMPLOYEES RETURNING TO ACTIVE EMPLOYMENT

Employees who retire from a State of Texas retirement system who wish to return to active employment at a System institution may be limited in the amount of time and the percentage of hours per week they are allowed to work.

A Retired Employee, as described in Section 2.0 of this Policy, who returns to work for a System institution is eligible for Program benefits as described below:

8.1 Retired from the U.T. System

An individual who retires from System and enrolls in the UGIP as a Retired Employee is never again eligible to participate in Program coverage as an active Employee (except as described in the exception below), but continues to participate as a Retired Employee. The institution from which the individual retired remains responsible for the Retired

Employee's premium even if the individual returns to work at a different UT System institution.

Exception: An Employee, who has retired due to a disability and later is determined by TRS to no longer be disabled, is eligible to return to active employment. Therefore, this individual would be eligible for Program benefits as an Employee at their System employing institution.

8.2 Retired from Another State Agency or State Institution of Higher Education

An individual who begins employment in a benefits-eligible position with the UT System following retirement from any public or private retirement system is entitled to the same group insurance enrollment options available to other active benefits-eligible UT Employees. See Policy 210, Section 2.0 of this Manual for a definition of a Benefits-Eligible Employee.

Neither benefits-eligible Employees nor Retired Employees, nor their covered Dependents, are eligible for Premium Sharing from both the UT System group insurance program and any other state group insurance program including the Texas A&M System, the Employees Retirement System of Texas, and the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. This prohibition applies even if the individual is eligible as an active employee under one program and a retired employee or covered dependent in another. Any such individual must elect to receive Premium Sharing from only one of the state programs.

Important: Under state law, TRS Return-to-Work Retirees who are not UT System Retirees are not eligible to participate in the UT group insurance program as an Employee. Therefore, Return-to-Work TRS Retirees enrolled in TRS Care who are hired by UT System to a Benefits Eligible position are strongly advised to retain their TRS Care coverage since they will not have an opportunity to enroll in UT System Program coverage.

9.0 DUAL STATE PREMIUM SHARING AND DUPLICATE GROUP COVERAGE PROHIBITED

9.1 Coverage Funded by Premium Sharing

See Policy 140 of this manual for detailed information about the prohibition of dual state Premium Sharing.

9.2 Coverage Paid by Employee/Retired Employee

Duplicate coverage is prohibited for any UT coverage even when the premium is paid in part or in full by the State. Additionally, an enrolled UT Subscriber or Dependent cannot be covered by two UT optional plans of the same type of coverage regardless of the funding source, but can have secondary coverage provided by another employer or group plan.

The following are examples of prohibited duplicate coverage:

- (a) An individual cannot have UT medical coverage as a UT Retired Employee and also as a dependent of another UT Employee or Retired Employee.
- (b) An individual cannot have UT vision coverage as a UT Retired Employee and also as a dependent of another UT Employee or Retired Employee.

- (c) An individual cannot have UT dental coverage as a UT Retired Employee and also as a dependent of another UT Employee or Retired Employee.
- (d) An individual cannot have UT voluntary group term life coverage as a UT Retired Employee and also as a dependent of another UT Employee.

10.0 TERMINATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEE COVERAGE

10.1 Voluntary Termination of Coverage

10.1.1 Re-enrollment Subsequent to Termination

A Retired Employee who is enrolled in Program coverage and then subsequently terminates coverage may re-enroll during Annual Enrollment or following a qualifying Change of Status event. Subsequent enrollment in certain optional coverages may be subject to EOI. See Policy 270 of this manual for more information about EOI requirements.

10.1.2 Special Provisions for Life Insurance

A Retired Employee who voluntarily terminates Voluntary GTL coverage may exercise any available conversion feature provided. The Retired Employee is responsible for obtaining the required form(s) from the former employing institution's Benefits Office and submitting the completed application to the life insurance Carrier within 31 days of the end of the month in which termination of coverage occurred. The Retired Employee should contact the Carrier for specific information regarding conversion options.

10.2 Nonpayment of Premium

A Retired Employee's Program coverage will be cancelled if timely payment of any portion of premium for which the Retired Employee is responsible is not made. See Section 13 of this Policy and Policy 140 of this manual for more information.

10.3 Death of Retired Employee

Upon the death of a Retired Employee enrolled in the Program, all coverage terminates on the last day of the month in which the death occurs.

If the deceased Retired Employee had a spouse and/or dependent children covered on the date of death, the Dependents may be eligible to continue medical, vision and dental coverage, either as a surviving dependent or a COBRA participant, if they were enrolled in the Program on the date of death. See Policy 230 of this manual for more information.

11.0 DISABILITY RETIRED EMPLOYEES

The Teacher Retirement System (TRS) determines if a participant in TRS is eligible for disability retirement under TRS.

Upon application for disability retirement, the TRS Medical Board must certify that:

- (a) the applicant is mentally or physically disabled from the further performance of his or her System job duties; and
- (b) the disability is probably permanent.

The amount of the monthly annuity is determined by the applicant's years of service credit, age and salary at the date of the disability.

The Optional Retirement Program (ORP) does not provide for disability retirement. For ORP participants, a disability determination from the Social Security Administration can be used to establish eligibility for disability retirement. Or, if enrolled, a determination from the current disability insurance carrier for UT System can be used similarly.

11.1 Disability Retired Employee Benefits

If an individual is approved for disability retirement, the newly disabled Retired Employee is eligible for the same group insurance benefits as other Retired Employees, as described in this Policy.

If the disabled Employee does not meet the requirements for eligibility for regular retirement, they are eligible to continue participation in the UT group insurance benefits for the same number of months as they were employed in a benefits eligible position.

11.2 Waiver of Premium for Voluntary Group Term Life

The Waiver of Premium provision is not available for:

- (a) Basic GTL for Employees and Retired Employees; and
- (b) Voluntary GTL for Retired Employees.

However, if an individual is actively employed at a System institution, is enrolled in Voluntary GTL coverage, becomes totally disabled, and is under the age of 60 on the date that employment ends due to the disability, any Voluntary GTL insurance benefits in effect as an Employee may continue upon approval of Waiver of Premium by the life insurance Carrier. The monthly premiums will be waived until the individual is no longer disabled or he/she reaches age 65, whichever occurs first.

To qualify as totally disabled, the Employee is unable to perform all of the material duties of any occupation for which the Employee is or may reasonably become qualified by reason of education, training or experience.

To qualify for Waiver of Premium, the Employee must submit proof of continued total disability without interruption for at least six (6) months. The proof must be submitted to the life insurance Carrier within nine (9) months from the date that active employment ended due to the disability. For detailed information, refer to the carrier's benefits materials.

12.0 COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

When an Employee, Retired Employee, or Dependent has coverage with more than one group insurance plan, the coordination of benefits (COB) provision set forth in the plan terms will be used to determine the order in which benefits will be paid.

13.0 FAILURE TO PAY PREMIUM

If a Retired Employee fails to pay out-of-pocket premiums by the end of the coverage period for any voluntary coverage in effect, the Retired Employee will receive written notification of past due premium(s). Notification will include a specific due date for payment of outstanding premium amounts and complete instructions for remitting payment to ensure continued coverage.

If out-of-pocket premiums remain unpaid beyond the specified due date, the Retired Employee's coverage will be reduced to the Basic Coverage package (Medical and Basic Life coverage for the Retired Employee only), for which premiums are fully covered by Premium Sharing. All other coverage will be retroactively terminated back to the last day of the coverage period for which out-of-pocket premiums were fully paid. See Policy 707 of this Administrative Manual for more information about retroactive termination of coverage.

Important: In most cases, an individual whose coverage is cancelled due to nonpayment of premium is not eligible for reinstatement during the plan year or for continuation coverage under COBRA. To reinstate eligibility for voluntary coverage during a subsequent plan year, a Retired Employee must resolve the nonpayment of premium status. Please see Policy 140 of this Administrative Manual for more information.

14.0 MISREPRESENTATION

Misrepresentation regarding meeting benefit eligibility requirements constitutes a violation of OEB's official policy. A verified misrepresentation by an Employee or Retired Employee shall be reported by OEB to the appropriate institution for investigation and possible sanctions. Possible sanctions for such a violation range from a reprimand to dismissal. In addition, reimbursement may be required for any benefits paid on behalf of an ineligible individual. Deliberate misrepresentation of Dependent eligibility by an Employee or Retired Employee may constitute criminal fraud and may result in a referral to a law enforcement office. Any ineligible Dependent may be terminated from plan participation upon discovery of ineligibility.