



## Employee Guide: Qualifying Life Change

### Marriage, Common-Law, Civil Union, Domestic Partner

The following guide outlines [permissible changes](#) to benefit elections and [how to](#) make them when an employee gains a spouse/partner through marriage, common-law, civil union or domestic partnership.

### Permissible changes

When entering into a marriage or partnership employees can make certain changes to their benefit elections. These changes must be made within **31 days** from the date of the life change and must be [consistent](#) with gaining a spouse/partner, and correspond with a gain of eligibility. New elections will **be effective the first of the month** following the marriage/partnership.

CU Health Plans medical, dental, vision	Optional Life Insurance	Voluntary AD&D	Flexible Spending Accounts Health Care Dependent Care
limited changes	changes permissible	changes permissible	limited changes

Some benefits are not subject to QLC regulations, now is a good time to consider changes to [other benefits](#).

### Plan resources

- [Rates](#)
- [Benefits Website](#)

### CU Health Plans: medical, dental, vision

	Enroll?	Cancel?	Change plans?
<b>Employee</b>	If the employee currently does not have coverage with CU, they can enroll themselves, provided they enroll the new spouse/partner.*	The employee may cancel CU coverage with proof of <a href="#">gain of group coverage</a> under another plan.	The employee cannot switch plans until the next Open Enrollment.
<b>Spouse/partner</b>	If the employee is enrolled/enrolling, they can enroll the new spouse/partner.*		
<b>Children</b>	If the employee is enrolled/enrolling and enrolling the new spouse/partner, they can also enroll their dependent children and/or spouse/partner's children.*		

\*Employee will be subject to [imputed income](#) (taxable income) for the amount CU contributes towards health premiums for partners and partner's children if they do not qualify as tax dependents. If they are tax dependents, the employee must submit a [Tax Certification of Dependency](#).

## Optional Life Insurance

	Enroll?	Cancel or decrease?
<b>Employee</b>	<p><b>Guarantee Issue (no medical history required):</b> The Employee can elect or increase up to \$10,000, in increments of \$1,000. Total policy amount cannot exceed three times employee's annual salary (max \$1 million).</p> <p><b>Additional Amounts:</b> To <a href="#">apply</a> for additional amount (policy max of \$1 million) employee must submit the Medical History Statement form, as evidence of insurability, to The Standard Insurance Company for approval.*</p>	Any policy can be decreased or canceled at any time. Changes are effective that month if Benefits Enrollment/Change form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.
<b>Spouse/partner</b>	<p><b>Guarantee Issue (no medical history required):</b> The employee can elect for a spouse/partner up to \$50,000, in increments of \$1,000, without a Medical History Statement. Total policy amount cannot exceed employee's Optional Life amount.</p> <p><b>Additional amounts:</b> To <a href="#">apply</a> for additional amounts (policy max of \$500,000) submit the Medical History Statement form, as evidence of insurability, to The Standard Insurance Company for approval.</p>	
<b>Children</b>	For a dependent child(ren), the employee may elect, in flat amounts of \$5,000 or \$10,000. Policy cannot exceed employee's Optional Life amount. No medical history is required.	

You can [update your beneficiary\(ies\)](#) at any time.

\*Effective date of policy is the date of approval by The Standard however, premiums are effective the first of the month following the approval date.

## Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D)

	Enroll?	Cancel or decrease?
<b>Employee</b>	The employee can elect or increase, in increments of \$10,000, up to 10-times their annual salary with a maximum of \$250,000. Medical history is not applicable.	Any policy can be decreased or canceled at any time. Changes are effective that month if Benefits Enrollment/Change form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.
<b>Spouse/partner</b>	The employee can elect or increase a spouse/partner, in increments of \$10,000, up to the employee's policy amount. Employee must be enrolled. Medical history is not applicable.	
<b>Children</b>	The employee can elect a flat \$5,000 for dependent child(ren). Employee must be enrolled. Medical history is not applicable.	

You can [update your beneficiary\(ies\)](#) at any time.

## Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)

Health Care Flexible Spending Account HCFA	Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account DCFA
<p>The employee can enroll or increase to accommodate newly eligible tax dependents and any other tax dependents who were not previously covered.</p> <p>The employee may decrease or cancel if they gain eligibility under another plan. In no event can a new election be reduced to an amount that is less than the expenses incurred prior to the new election date.</p> <p>Effective date is the first of the month following the receipt of Benefits Enrollment/Change form.</p>	<p>The employee can enroll or increase to accommodate newly eligible tax dependents and any other tax dependents who were not previously covered. The employee can decrease or cancel if spouse/partner is not employed or covered under other DCFA.</p>

## How to make changes?

The employee has **31 days** from the date of marriage/partnership to make changes by submitting the required documentation to [Employee Services](#).

## How to add a newly eligible spouse/partner and dependent child(ren)

- Submit** the Benefits Enrollment/Change form:  
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)  
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)
- Submit** [Dependent Eligibility Verification \(DEV\)](#) documentation for newly eligible spouse/partner and child(ren), if dependents are not already verified. If documentation is not received, the dependent(s) will not be enrolled and the employee will have to wait until the next Open Enrollment.

Eligible dependents	Dependent verification required documentation		
<b>Spouse</b>	Most recent Federal Tax return form showing a married filing status. Send first and second page (the signed signature page) <b>or</b> first page and Certificate of Electronic filing.	or	Marriage certificate <b>and</b> one secondary verification document*
<b>Common Law Spouse</b>	<a href="#">CU Affidavit of Common Law</a>	and	One secondary verification document*
<b>Civil union partner</b>	Civil union certificate**	and	One secondary verification document*
<b>Domestic partner</b>	<a href="#">CU Affidavit of Domestic Partnership**</a>	and	Two secondary verification documents*
<b>Child under age 27</b>	Birth or adoption certificate	or	Court documents signed by a judge for parental responsibility or qualified medical child support order.
<b>Disabled child over age 27</b>	Birth or adoption certificate	and	A medical certificate of disability or Notice of Determination from the Social Security Administration
<b>*Secondary verification documents:</b> Documents (must be dated within the last 60 days) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designation of dependent as primary beneficiary of the employee's life insurance or retirement benefits.</li> <li>• Joint ownership of residence or other real estate.</li> <li>• Lease agreement on home or another property listing both names.</li> <li>• Joint ownership of a motor vehicle.</li> <li>• Utility bill listing the employee and dependent on the bill or two separate utility bills, one listing the employee and one listing the dependent at the same address.</li> </ul>			<b>**Employees will be subject to <a href="#">imputed income</a></b> (taxable income) for the amount CU contributes towards health premiums for partner and partner's children if they do not qualify as tax dependents. If they are tax dependents, employee must submit <a href="#">Tax Certification of Dependency</a> .

## How to cancel coverage for employee, spouse/partner and dependent child(ren)

(e.g., going to spouse's/partner's group insurance plan)

1. **Submit** the appropriate Benefits Enrollment/Change form:
  - [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)
  - [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)
2. **Submit** a letter or other document from dependent's employer or insurer stating:
  - Who are individuals who gained group coverage
  - When is the effective date of group coverage
  - What types of plans were gained, specifically medical, dental and/or vision

## How to add, change or remove beneficiary(ies) from a life insurance policy

If you are enrolled in Employee Basic Life, Employee Optional Life and/or Employee Voluntary AD&D you must name one or more beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are the individual(s) or organization that you name on your life insurance policies that will receive the benefit in the event of your death. Beneficiaries can be legal dependents, but do not have to be. Beneficiaries can be updated anytime by following the steps below.

1. LOGIN into your [employee portal](#)
2. SELECT **CU Resources** (Skip this step if CU Resources is your homepage.)
3. CLICK on the **Benefits and Wellness** tile
4. CLICK on the **Benefits Summary** tile
5. On the summary CLICK on the **plan(s)** you want to edit beneficiaries for (Employee Basic Life, Employee Optional Life and/or Employee Voluntary AD&D)
6. CLICK **Edit**
  - a. Add beneficiaries
  - b. Change percentages of current beneficiaries (the total percentage between beneficiaries must be a total of 100 percent)
  - c. Remove a beneficiary (change the percentage to 0 percent) - Note: If you no longer wish to have this individual visible in your employee portal, submit the [Dependent/Beneficiary Removal form](#)
7. CLICK **Save** - changes will be effective immediately

## Payroll deductions

If you are canceling or removing dependent coverage and expecting a reduction in your cost of monthly premiums, you must submit all documentation by the tenth of the month in which the change would take effect. If documentation is received after the tenth of the month, premium adjustments will be reflected in the next payroll cycle.

## Submission instructions

Submit forms electronically or send forms and documents via:

Fax: 303.860.4299 (secured)

Email: [benefits@cu.edu](mailto:benefits@cu.edu) (unsecured)

Employee Services: 1800 Grant St. Suite 400, Denver, CO 80203

Employees can check their Benefits Summary in their [employee portal](#), to verify enrollment accuracy after forms are processed.

If you have further questions, contact a benefits professional during regular business hours at **303-860-4200, option 3**

## Other benefits to consider (Not subject to QLC requirements)

During the course of a Life Change, there are other benefit changes to consider that are not subject to Qualifying Life Changes. The following changes can be made at any time during the plan year:

### HSA – Health Savings Account

The employee can enroll, increase, decrease or cancel at any time during the year without a Qualifying Life Change. The employee must be enrolled on the CU Health Plan – High Deductible in order to open and contribute to the HSA offered by CU. Contributions cannot be made to both the HCFSA and the HSA at the same time. Please see the [HSA Fact Sheet](#) for more detailed information.

- Effective date via Form: Effective that month if form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.
- Effective date via Self-Service-Portal: Effective that month, if enrolled online before that month's payroll processing. Employee must call a [benefits professional](#) to activate online enrollment.

### Optional Life Insurance

The employee can enroll in or increase, at any time, in Optional Life Insurance:

1. **Complete and sign** the evidence of insurability (EOI)\*  
[Medical History Statement Faculty and University Staff](#)  
[Medical History Statement Classified Staff](#)
2. **Submit Form**  
 The Standard Insurance Company  
 Medical Underwriting  
 900 SW Fifth Avenue  
 Portland, OR 97204
3. **Approval**
  - a. The Standard will notify the applicant and the university when application is approved.
    - i. Effective date of the policy is the date of approval by The Standard.
    - ii. Premiums are effective the first day of the month following the approval date.
  - b. The university will notify the applicant when approval is received. At that time the applicant will designate beneficiaries and indicate tobacco usage via the provided form.

**Cancellations:** The employee can decrease or revoke personal and dependent Optional Life Insurance any time during the plan year by submitting the appropriate Benefits Enrollment/Change form:

[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)  
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)

\*EOI: By signing the [Medical History Statement](#), the applicant is authorizing the Standard Insurance Company to obtain information about the applicant's health, undergo a physical examination, if required, which may include blood testing, and provide any additional information about the applicant's insurability that The Standard may reasonably require.

### Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D)

Voluntary AD&D can only be added during Open Enrollment and certain Qualifying Life Changes. However, employees can cancel AD&D any time during the plan year by submitting the appropriate Benefits Enrollment/Change form:

[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)  
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)

## Short Term Disability

### Faculty and University Staff:

Employees can cancel any time during the plan year by submitting the [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#). Effective date for cancellation is that month if the Benefits Enrollment/Change form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month. The employee can enroll only during Open Enrollment.

**Classified Staff:** N/A (Must continue enrollment since it is mandatory and paid by CU)

## Long Term Disability

**Faculty and University Staff:** N/A (Must continue enrollment since it is mandatory and paid by CU)

### Classified Staff:

- The employee can enroll at any time during the year with a [Medical History Statement Classified Staff](#) approved by The Standard Insurance Co. Effective date is the first of the month following approval of The Standard Insurance Co.
- Premiums are based on employee's age, salary and vesting status with PERA.
- Employee can request change of premiums at any time during the year or when they become vested with PERA (five years of PERA service). Employee must submit Benefits Enrollment/Change and proof of vesting status (if status was gained outside CU's employment). Effective that month if form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.
- The employee can change to vested status anytime during the plan year.
- The employee can cancel any time during the plan year. Effective date for cancellation is that month if the [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified](#) is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.

## Definitions

**Consistency Rule:** Under the Consistency Rule, the election change is on account of and corresponds with the Qualifying Life Change that affects eligibility for coverage under an employer's plan. Changes to benefit plans must be consistent with the Qualifying Life Change, and correspond with a gain or loss of eligibility for coverage.

**Evidence of Insurability (EOI):** This means an applicant must submit the [Medical History Statement Faculty/University Staff](#) or [Medical History Statement Classified Staff](#) to The Standard Insurance Co., authorizing to obtain information about the applicant's health, undergo a physical examination which may include blood testing or any other information about the applicant's insurability reasonably required. Effective date of policy is the date of approval by The Standard however, premiums are effective the first of the month following the approval date.

**Gain of Group Coverage:** When canceling CU coverage, CU requires proof that employee and/or dependents have or will have coverage. We require a letter or other document from dependent's employer or insurer stating:

- Who are individuals that gained group coverage
- When is the effective date of group coverage
- What types of plans were gained, specifically medical, and dental and/or vision.