

Faculty and University Staff ^[1]

2026–27 plan year changes

This page provides details about the 2025–26 short-term and long-term disability insurance for Faculty and University Staff. To learn about the 2026–27 disability insurance plans, visit the [Open Enrollment Disability Insurance page for Faculty and University Staff](#) ^[2].

As a Faculty or University Staff member, you have short-term and long-term disability insurance options. These benefits are administered by The Standard Insurance Company.

Short-term disability: Your enrollment is optional, you pay for premiums^{Premium}The monthly cost to participate in the plan. Typically, it is shared between the employee and the employer. Premiums are deducted from your monthly paycheck. ^[3] and the income benefit is not taxed if you file a claim. If you do not enroll in short-term disability during your initial enrollment period and enroll at a later date, you will be subject to the Late Enrollment Penalty (LEP)^{Late Enrollment Period (LEP)}A penalty imposed by the insurer to employees who do not apply during their initial enrollment period (their new hire enrollment). The penalty is incurred if you enroll in Short-Term Disability at any time other than your new hire enrollment. In this case, if you file a claim for anything other than an accidental injury during the first 12 months after your coverage becomes effective, Short-Term Disability benefits will be subject to a 60-day waiting period, rather than the regular 29-day waiting period. ^[4] See table below.

NOTE: Employees who are eligible for CU FAML I leave should be aware that FAML I leave is the first payer during an employee’s qualifying leave of absence. Any eligible Short-term Disability benefits will be automatically offset (reduced) by an employee’s FAML I wage replacement benefit, even if the employee does not apply for CU FAML I.

Long-term disability: LTD is provided to eligible employees. CU will automatically enroll you after one year of continuous employment in an eligible position. Premiums^{Premium}The monthly cost to participate in the plan. Typically, it is shared between the employee and the employer. Premiums are deducted from your monthly paycheck. ^[3] are paid by CU, and the income benefit is taxable if you file a claim^{Claim}A written request such as a reimbursement of a health care expense made by you or your health care provider to the plan administrator whether is medical, dental, vision or a flexible spending account. ^[5]

Features and considerations

Short-term disability

Long-term disability

Income benefit amount	<p>60% of your weekly pre-disability earnings to a maximum weekly benefit of \$1,500.* Please see <u>rates</u> ^[6] for <u>premium</u><u>Premium</u><u>The monthly cost to participate in the plan. Typically, it is shared between the employee and the employer. Premiums are deducted from your monthly paycheck.</u> ^[3] calculations.</p> <p>*Salaries of \$130,000 or more, the <u>premium</u><u>Premium</u><u>The monthly cost to participate in the plan. Typically, it is shared between the employee and the employer. Premiums are deducted from your monthly paycheck.</u> ^[3] caps at \$12 due to the benefit cap of \$1,500 per week.</p>	<p>60% of pre-disability earnings, not to exceed a benefit of \$23,625 per month, less income from other sources (i.e., Social Security).</p>
Maximum benefit period	<p>22 weeks</p> <p><u>See Certificate for disabilities exclusions</u> ^[7]</p>	<p>If disabled at age:</p> <p>59 or younger 60 through 64 65 through 68 69 or older</p> <p>Benefits continue:</p> <p>age 65 5 years to age 70 1 year</p> <p><u>See Certificate for disability exclusions</u> ^[8]</p>

PremiumPremiumThe
monthly cost to participate in
the plan. Typically, it is
shared between the
employee and the employer.
Premiums are deducted from
your monthly paycheck. [3]
paid by employee. (Note:
Short-term disability monthly
rates have been lowered for
the 2025-2026 plan year. [9]
)To calculate your monthly
coverage cost:

Cost

1. Multiple your gross monthly salary by 0.60. This is the percentage of your monthly salary you'll receive while on short-term disability.
2. Divide that number by 100.
3. Multiple this final amount by the option rate 0.1108. This is the amount of money that will be deducted from your pay each month for this coverage.
4. Salaries of \$130,000 or more, the premiumPremiumThe monthly cost to participate in the plan. Typically, it is shared between the employee and the employer. Premiums are deducted from your monthly paycheck. [3] caps at \$13.46 due to the benefit cap of \$1,500/week.

PremiumPremiumThe
monthly cost to participate in
the plan. Typically, it is
shared between the
employee and the employer.
Premiums are deducted from
your monthly paycheck. [3]
paid by the university.
Enrollment is automatic
following one year of
employment in a benefits-
eligible position.

**Enrollment
process**

Employee may enroll only during the first 31 days of initial eligibility, during Open Enrollment period
Open Enrollment PeriodThe period during which an eligible employee may enroll in, change or cancel CU benefits plans. This event is held every spring, with an effective date of July 1. ^[10] and when changing classification (Qualifying Life Change
Qualifying Life ChangeA family status change or change in eligibility that allows you to make certain changes in your benefits (e.g., birth, marriage, gain in eligibility, loss of eligibility). Also called a qualified life event. ^[11]) from Classified Staff to Faculty/University Staff.

For employees who enroll during the "initial enrollment period" (as a new hire or newly eligible employee), the effective date

Effective Date
The date on which an employee's coverage is officially active. ^[12]

is immediately if your hire date/eligibility date is the first of the month. If your hire date/eligibility date is any other day of the month, your coverage will be effective the first of the following month.

Effective date
Effective Date
The date on which an employee's coverage is officially active. ^[12]

(subject to active work provisions)*

For employees who enroll during CU Annual Open Enrollment
Open Enrollment Period
The period during which an eligible employee may enroll in, change or cancel CU benefits plans.
This event is held every spring, with an effective date of July 1. ^[10], the effective date
Effective Date
The date on which an employee's coverage is officially active.

^[12] is July 1 of that plan year.

First day of the month following your one-year anniversary of employment in a benefits-eligible position.

For employees who enroll when changing classification, effective date
Effective Date
The date on which an employee's coverage is officially active. ^[12] is the first

of the month following this Qualifying Life Change
Qualifying Life Change
A family status change or change in eligibility that allows you to make certain changes in your benefits
(e.g. birth, marriage, gain in

Late enrollment penalty (LEP)

Late Enrollment Period (LEP)

A penalty imposed by the insurer to employees who do not apply during their initial enrollment period (their new hire enrollment).

The penalty is incurred if you enroll in Short-Term Disability at any time other than your new hire enrollment.

In this case, if you file a claim for anything other than an accidental injury during the first 12 months after your coverage becomes effective, Short-Term Disability benefits will

Employees who do not apply during their "initial enrollment period" are subject to the LEP, which means if you file a claim for anything other than an accidental injury during the first 12 months after your coverage becomes effective, short-term disability benefits will be subject to a 60-day waiting period, rather than the regular 29-day waiting period.

N/A

Benefit Waiting Period
Benefit Waiting Period
The period that you must be continuously disabled before benefits become payable. ^[13]

The Benefit Waiting Period is 29 days from the date of disability or when sick leave is exhausted, whichever is later.

The Benefit Waiting Period is 6 months from the date of disability or when sick leave is exhausted, whichever is later.

Benefits Waiting Period is the period you must be continuously disabled before short-term disability benefits become payable. No short-term disability benefits are payable for the Benefit Waiting Period.

Benefits Waiting Period is the period you must be continuously disabled before long-term disability benefits become payable. No long-term disability benefits are payable for the Benefit Waiting Period.

Income benefit taxability

Benefit is not taxable income.

Benefits is taxable income.

Benefit claim process

Contact your campus Human Resources department and Employee Services within 30 days of disability.

Contact your campus Human Resources department and Employee Services 3–4 months following disability.

You may contact the Employee Services Leave Team to inquire about filing a claim for STD and/or LTD at Leave@cu.edu ^[14]. You may also call The Standard directly at 833.786.5642 to file a claim telephonically, or visit their website at www.standard.com

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[15].

[15].

***Subject to "active work provisions": You must be capable of active work on the day before the scheduled effective date of your insurance.**

Plan details

- [CU Faculty and University Staff Short-Term Disability Insurance Certificate](#) ^[7] (20 pages)

- [CU Faculty and University Staff Long-Term Disability Insurance Certificate](#) ^[8] (23 pages)
- [CU Short Term Disability: Amendment No. 10](#) ^[16] (1 page)
- [How to File a Short-Term Disability Claim](#) ^[17] (2 pages)

You know it's important, but how much insurance do you need?

The Standard can help! Their decision tool and calculator can help you determine whether you need more of a given type of insurance. This newfound knowledge can guide your decisions.

[Get started](#) ^[18]

Groups audience:

Employee Services

Right Sidebar:

ES: Benefits & Wellness - IWT Disability Insurance

ES: Benefits & Wellness - Current Employee Sidebar

ES: Benefits & Wellness - Disability Contact

Source URL: <https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/disability-insurance/faculty-and-university>

Links

[1] <https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/disability-insurance/faculty-and-university> [2] <https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/current-employees/disability-insurance/faculty-and-university> [3] <https://www.cu.edu/es-benefits-glossary/premium> [4] <https://www.cu.edu/es-benefits-glossary/late-enrollment-period-lep> [5] <https://www.cu.edu/es-benefits-glossary/claim> [6] <https://www.cu.edu/docs/faculty-staff-rate-sheet> [7] <https://www.cu.edu/docs/cu-short-term-disability-faculty-officers-and-university-staff> [8] <https://www.cu.edu/docs/cu-long-term-disability-faculty-officers-and-university-staff> [9] <https://www.cu.edu/blog/work-life/short-term-disability-rates-lowered-2024> [10] <https://www.cu.edu/es-benefits-glossary/open-enrollment-period> [11] <https://www.cu.edu/es-benefits-glossary/qualifying-life-change> [12] <https://www.cu.edu/es-benefits-glossary/effective-date> [13] <https://www.cu.edu/es-benefits-glossary/benefit-waiting-period> [14] <mailto:Leave@cu.edu> [15] <https://www.standard.com/> [16] <https://www.cu.edu/docs/cu-short-term-disability-amendment-no-10> [17] <https://www.cu.edu/docs/how-file-short-term-disability-claim> [18] <https://www.standard.com/edu/university-colorado/63951>