

## ELIGIBILITY FOR INSURANCE BENEFITS & EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION

Years of service in the A&M System is calculated the same way that years of service credit for TRS is calculated. Under current state law, if you were retired from or employed in a benefits-eligible position with the A&M System on 8/31/2003, you are eligible for the employer contribution toward your premiums as a retiree when:

- you are at least age 55 and have at least 5 years of TRS or ORP service credit, or your age plus years of service equal at least 80, or you have at least 30 years of service and, 3 of those years of service are with the A&M System,
- the A&M System is your last state employer, and you have an intact TRS or ORP account.\*

*If you left A&M System employment before 9/1/2003, but you met the above criteria as of 8/31/2003, you qualify for retiree benefit coverage under these criteria.*

If you were hired by the A&M System in a benefits-eligible position after 8/31/2003, or if you left A&M System employment before 8/31/2003, and did not meet the criteria listed above as of 8/31/2003, you are eligible for the employer contribution as a retiree when:

- you are at least age 65 and have at least 10 years of TRS or ORP service credit, or your age plus years of service equal at least 80 and you have 10 years of service credit, and,
- 10 of those years of service are with the A&M System, or you have a combined total of 10 or more years of service with the A&M System, UT System, and ERS and the A&M System has the most years of service, or the A&M System has the same amount of service as the other highest System and A&M is your last employer, and,
- you have an intact TRS or ORP account.\*

\* An intact TRS account is one that has not been withdrawn. An intact ORP account is a 403(b) account containing funds that can be tied to your Texas ORP account. The 403(b) account must meet the vendor's minimum balance requirement. An IRA is not a 403(b) account. Transferring funds after retirement to other types of investments or types of funds such as an IRA or receiving a lump-sum distribution will not affect your eligibility to continue receiving insurance benefits as a retiree.

## Disability Retirees

Disability retirement is available to a system employee under the following conditions:

- (a) the employee does not satisfy the age and service requirements for system retirement with benefits;
- (b) the employee applies for a disability retirement and submits the results of a medical examination; and
- (c) the TRS medical board or, in the case of an ORP member, the System Benefits Administration Office certifies, based upon reliable medical opinion and consistent with the requirements for retirement under TRS, that the employee is mentally or physically disabled and unable to perform the employee's duties and that the disability is probably permanent.

If you are a disability retiree, some additional provisions and restrictions apply to you. These are addressed in the About Disability brochure, available online at [www.tamus.edu/assets/files/benefits/pdf/publications/disability.pdf](http://www.tamus.edu/assets/files/benefits/pdf/publications/disability.pdf) or from HR.

## Former Employees

If you leave A&M System employment before retirement, you may be eligible for A&M System benefit coverage when you retire. You must meet the eligibility criteria. You may apply for coverage within 90 days of meeting the eligibility criteria for early or full retirement. In this case, you may choose to have your coverage become effective:

- on the later of the first of the month after the Human Resources office receives your application or the first of the month after you meet the eligibility criteria, or
- on your employer contribution eligibility date (the first of the month that falls 90 days after the Human Resources office receives your application).

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### Former Employees Continued

If you apply for coverage within 60 days of leaving a TRS-eligible position with another TRS-covered employer, then your SGIP simply continues with us and there would be no break in coverage from your former employer.

If you do not enroll on one of the above dates, you may enroll during a later Open Enrollment period. In that case, you can choose to have your coverage become effective on the next September 1 or December 1.

If you choose to have your coverage become effective before your employer contribution eligibility date, you must pay the full cost of coverage until you become eligible for the employer contribution, the first of the month following 90 days from your enrollment.

### Paying Your Premiums

You may be billed yearly, semiannually, quarterly or monthly. Payments can be made through a monthly bank draft or paid monthly online, by phone or by mail.

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## TEXAS A&M BENEFIT CHANGES

### Health

In general, your health coverage will be the same as that provided to employees, and you may cover yourself and eligible dependents. However, if and when you or a dependent are eligible for Medicare (age 65 or 24 months after becoming eligible for Social Security if disabled), the A&M System's health coverage becomes secondary to Medicare coverage (meaning Medicare pays first). Additional provisions apply when working after retirement.

If you are retiring and are younger than 65, but your spouse is 65 or older, a dependent on your coverage, and not working with his or her own health coverage, your spouse must enroll in Medicare as it will be primary.

When A&M System health coverage becomes secondary, it pays benefits as if you are enrolled in both Parts A and B of Medicare. Because of this, if you aren't enrolled in both Parts A and B of Medicare, you will pay more expenses out of your own pocket.

If you and your spouse (if covered) are 65 or older, enrolled in Medicare, and not employed by the A&M System, you should move to the 65 PLUS plan. This will also move you to a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan through Express Scripts that will generally have the same copays and coverage as the employee Express Scripts plan.

### Dental/Vision

Your dental and vision coverage will be the same as that provided to employees, and you will pay the same premiums. You may cover yourself and eligible dependents.

**Note:** As a retiree, in the event of your death, your spouse, **if enrolled at the time of your death**, may keep A&M System health, dental and/or vision coverage indefinitely, although they will no longer receive the employer contribution. Your eligible children, if enrolled at the time of your death, may keep coverage until they are no longer eligible.

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

You may continue AD&D coverage on yourself only or yourself and your dependents in increments of \$10,000 up to a maximum of: \$200,000 if you are younger than age 70 or \$60,000 if you are age 70 or older.

### Long-Term Disability

The Long-Term Disability benefit is designed to re-place part of your A&M System salary if you become disabled, so coverage automatically ends at retirement.

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## Life Insurance

If you are insured under Basic Life, Alternate Basic Life, Optional Life and/or Dependent Life at the time of retirement, you may continue these coverages.

**Basic Life:** You automatically have \$7,500 of this term insurance if you have System health coverage. Basic Life includes an additional \$5,000 of Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) coverage.

**Alternate Basic Life:** If you are not enrolled in an A&M System health plan but certify that you have other health coverage, you may enroll in Alternate Basic Life coverage. At retirement, you may keep or enroll in Alternate Basic Life coverage of \$50,000 or the total amount of life coverage you had immediately before retirement, whichever is less. If, after retirement, you decide to enroll in Alternate Basic Life, you will be limited to the total amount of Basic and/or Optional Life coverage you have at that time or \$50,000, whichever is less. You must provide evidence of insurability to enroll if you do not already have life coverage or to increase your coverage to \$50,000 if you had less than \$50,000 in life coverage when you enrolled in the plan. This coverage decreases to \$30,000 at **age 80**.

**Optional Life:** If you are younger than **age 70** upon retirement, the maximum amount of coverage you can keep is \$100,000 or your current coverage level, whichever is less. If you are **age 70-79**, the maximum coverage you can keep is \$60,000 or your current coverage level, whichever is less. At **age 80**, your maximum coverage amount is \$30,000. If you have life insurance coverage in an amount less than the maximum coverage level based on age, you can increase your coverage upon retirement by providing evidence of insurability.

**Dependent Life:** You may continue your current Dependent Life plan. If you have Plan A, your spouse's coverage will be reduced to \$50,000 if you are **under age 70** upon retirement, to \$30,000 when you reach **age 70** and \$15,000 when you reach **age 80**. You may also change from Plan A or C to Plan B. If you change plans, your dependents must provide evidence of insurability. You must have life insurance coverage for yourself in order to have Dependent Life insurance.

## Flexible Spending Accounts

You must be payroll deducted for this benefit in order to enjoy the advantage of this plan. As a retiree, you may not enroll in Flexible Spending Accounts.

## THINGS TO DO

**We suggest starting the retirement process at least six months before your actual retirement date. Because the process can be complicated, you may want to start as early as one year in advance.**

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  - ✓ Contact your Tax-Deferred Account (TDA) and/ or Texa\$aver DCP vendor to discuss your distribution options.
  - ✓ Review [HR Retirement Website](#)

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### Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) Participant

1. Consult your TRS Benefits Handbook for information on your retirement options.
  - For a copy of this document, contact TRS at 223-8778 or visit TRS online at [trs.texas.gov](https://trs.texas.gov).
2. Contact TRS at (800)223-8778 to request **Form TRS 18** (Request for Estimate of Retirement Benefits).
  - Complete Form TRS 18 and return it to TRS to receive a retirement packet.
3. Send copies of your birth records to TRS
  - If you select Option 1, 2, or 5 retirement plan, include copies of your beneficiary's birth records.
  - Write your Social Security number on the birth records so the records can be matched with your TRS account.
  - If your current name is different from the name on your birth records, write your current name on the records.
4. Purchase special service credit for retirement credit or transfer service credit, if applicable.

### Optional Retirement Program (ORP) Participant

Contact your ORP vendor(s) to discuss your retirement options. You may need to provide an original or certified copy of your and your primary beneficiary's birth certificates.

### Working After Retirement

- To work 100% requires a 12 month break in service
- To work less than 50% requires a full calendar break (30 days) in service
- Retirees who retired from TRS after January 2001 can work one-half time or less of Employee After Retirement limits (EAR)
  - Contact HR for annual list of allowable monthly hours
- A Retiree who works over the EAR limits, forfeits the annuity for each month that the retiree exceeds the amount allowed during that month.

### Islander Retiree Volunteer Program

The Islander Retiree Volunteer Program provides the opportunity for retirees to stay connected by volunteering at different campus events.

<https://www.tamucc.edu/human-resources/services/retiring/volunteer.php>

### Annual Retiree Luncheon

Seasoned Retirees will meet with the president to get updates on our growing university. The president will also recognize new retirees with a paver certificate (if applicable) and a retiree service paver.

## QUESTIONS

If you have questions regarding the information in this brochure, contact the Human Resources Office. This brochure provides a brief summary of your retiree insurance benefits. More information is available in the plan description booklets and plan documents. In case of any discrepancy between the information in this brochure and the plan documents, the plan documents will govern.

*Retirement criteria is subject to change without notice by the Texas Legislature.*