OP 34.24 Requirements of Health, Evacuation, and Repatriation Insurance for Certain Non-immigrant Students

DATE: March 1, 2013

PURPOSE: This Operating Policy and Procedure (OP) sets forth requirements and guidelines for health, evacuation, and repatriation insurance for non-immigrant students. The United States Government has certain requirements for all persons applying for a non-immigrant visa (e.g., student visas) to enter the United States. These include certain financial qualifications such as being able to meet all personal financial liabilities while in the United States and not becoming a “public charge” while in the United States. Consequently, Texas Tech University requires that all non-immigrant students have health insurance coverage as a condition of enrollment. This helps assure that non-immigrant students comply with United States Government financial responsibility requirements.

REVIEW: This OP will be reviewed in January of each year by the vice provost for international affairs, in consultation with the dean of the Graduate School, with recommended revisions forwarded to the senior vice provost and the provost/senior vice president.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

1. Texas Tech University will require non-immigrant students to maintain the health, evacuation, and repatriation insurance offered through the university. Any change in the minimum insurance requirements of the U.S. Department of State will be incorporated into Texas Tech University minimum health insurance requirements at the next student insurance contract renewal.

2. This policy will apply to all persons enrolled in one credit hour or more at Texas Tech University who have been granted a non-immigrant status in the United States by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

3. Students will purchase student health insurance (including evacuation and repatriation) through Texas Tech University.

4. Waivers of the above health insurance requirement may be granted to non-immigrant students sponsored by the United States Government, a foreign government recognized by the United States of America, or certain international, government sponsored, or non-governmental organizations. Such waivers will be based on the government or organization guaranteeing, in writing, payment of all health care expenses, including evacuation and repatriation. Documentation must be presented by the 12th class day (4th class day of summer sessions) each semester. Waivers also may be granted to students who provide documented evidence of health insurance coverage, including medical evacuation and repatriation, by an employer.
5. Students who believe an initial denial of a waiver was incorrect can submit a final appeal, in writing, to the vice provost for international affairs (VPIA) within ten business days of the initial denial. Such appeal must clearly explain the basis for the requested waiver and why the student disputes the initial decision. The VPIA will make final decisions in consultation with appropriate administrators.

6. This Texas Tech University requirement applies only to enrolled students; however, it is strongly recommended that dependents of students have health, evacuation, and repatriation insurance as the need to preclude becoming a “public charge” is an integral requirement of qualifying for all U.S. non-immigrant visa categories. Students in J-1 status must have insurance for any J-2 dependents under rules of the U.S. Department of State.