

	FGCU POLICY 4.009	Responsible Unit: Office of Counseling and Health Services
	Counseling and Health Services Health Bridge Program	

A. POLICY STATEMENT

The Office of Counseling and Health Services (CHS) provides psychological and physical health services to all enrolled students. This Policy states conditions under which students receive such services and exceptions for students who are temporarily not enrolled for a term.

B. REASON FOR POLICY

This Policy was created to address the services available through Student Health Services (SHS) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) for students, alumni, and employees.

C. APPLICABILITY AND/OR ACCOUNTABILITY

This Policy applies to enrolled students, non-enrolled students, and employees.

D. ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility for Florida Gulf Coast University Students

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU or University) provides health services through its CHS departments. Such services are available as a benefit of the health fee assessed to all enrolled students.

a. New FGCU Students

New FGCU students become eligible for CHS services beginning the first (1st) day of classes of their first (1st) term at the University.

b. Students Who Are Required To Be On Campus Early or Stay Late

Students who are required to be on campus before classes start (i.e. students registered for, and participating in, the University orientation programs, students living in the residence halls prior to the first (1st) day of classes, residence hall Resident Assistants, and intercollegiate athletes required to be on campus for pre-season training) are eligible for health care, provided they are able to present verification of their registration, student/athlete status, or their University Housing agreement. Athletes continuing in tournament play after the last day of classes are

eligible for services from CHS without paying Health Bridge until tournament play ends.

c. Currently Enrolled or Continuing FGCU Students

Because of the assessed health fee, all enrolled FGCU students are eligible to receive care from CHS from the first (1st) class day of the term until the first (1st) business day of the following term.

- d. Students continuously enrolled in a program which has course requirements that extend beyond the term for which they paid a health fee are eligible for services.
- e. Continuously enrolled students who stop out (not enrolled for one (1) term) will be eligible for services through the Health Bridge Program (health services offered to non-enrolled FGCU students) and must pay the Health Bridge Fee.

2. Health Bridge Program

Students have a variety of roles and needs throughout the time they attend FGCU. Also, some non-enrolled students may be eligible for continued care at CHS until they return to FGCU according to the specifications below.

a. Health Bridge Participation

- 1) Generally, a non-enrolled student is not eligible to receive services through CHS due to the non-payment of the health fee. However, services are available with the payment of a Health Bridge Fee to participate in the Health Bridge Program.
- 2) An eligible, non-enrolled student may not participate in Health Bridge Program for two (2) consecutive terms. The student must re-enroll at FGCU and remain enrolled for at least one (1) term to continue receiving services at CHS. If the student does not re-enroll and pay a health fee, then upon request, she/he will be made aware of health services offered within the local community.
- 3) An eligible, non-enrolled student may not participate in the Health Bridge Program more than four (4) times as an undergraduate and no more than four (4) times as a graduate.

b. Eligibility for Health Bridge for Non-Enrolled Students

- 1) Voluntary Non-Enrollment: Students who choose to stop-out (not enroll for a given term, but intend to return after a term out) are eligible to participate in the Health Bridge Program. This includes the summer term for which continuously enrolled students do not enroll.

- 2) Voluntary Withdraw: Students who voluntarily withdraw during a term may continue to receive care during the term from which they withdrew, provided they did not receive a refund. This student is eligible for the Health Bridge Program the following term if they choose. If the student withdraws from classes and receives any refund, the student may pay the Health Bridge Fee in order to receive care. This student would not be eligible for participation in the Health Bridge Program the following term.
 - 3) Involuntary Withdraw: Students who are involuntarily withdrawn from FGCU are eligible to see a provider at CHS for one (1) final appointment and referral, but not for enrollment in the Health Bridge Program.
 - 4) Suspension/Expulsion: Students who are suspended or expelled from the University are not eligible to continue with any services from CHS during suspension, after expulsion, or to participate in the Health Bridge Program.
 - 5) FGCU Graduates: Individuals who have graduated from FGCU may not be eligible for services. An exception to this provision is to allow students who can show they have been accepted into an FGCU graduate program and entry into that program will occur no later than two (2) terms from graduation.
 - 6) Previous use of either CHS service is not required for Health Bridge Program eligibility.
 - 7) There are a few exceptions to the Health Bridge Program and the enrollment requirement for receipt of services through CHS. Such exceptions include students who need to come to CHS only to pick up medication refills previously prescribed, with no need for follow-up visit, or students who have started a course of vaccine (such as Hepatitis, Gardasil) who need to get a another shot in the series, and students receiving a continuous course of injectable contraception.
 - 8) CHS will meet with any student or former student to provide referral information at no cost.
- c. Summer Program Participants

Summer participants in official FGCU sponsored programs, such as registered guests of the Executive MBA program, are eligible only for emergency treatment at CHS and referral to community resources, if requested; they are not eligible for Health Bridge.

3. Services for University Employees/Staff
 - a. University Staff as Students

University employees attending courses under an employee tuition waiver are considered enrolled students and are eligible for care at CHS.

b. Courtesy Services for Staff

- 1) CHS may be called upon for consultation and referral services.
- 2) CHS will offer blood pressure screening and first-aid as requested.
- 3) CHS may offer health education programs for University employees.

c. Alumni

As part of their benefit, as alumni, former students may receive flu shots and vaccines at the same cost as students.

4. Eligibility Questions

Any eligibility questions should be brought to the attention of the Directors or Associate Directors of CHS.

E. PROCEDURES

1. Health Bridge Fee

- a. The Health Bridge Fee exists to provide remuneration for services received by students who do not pay a health fee for various reasons.
- b. The Health Bridge Fee is fifty-four dollars (\$54) per term.
- c. The Health Bridge Fee is paid to FGCU in SHS and noted in the charts and schedule in both SHS and CAPS.
- d. The Health Bridge Fee may be initiated any time during a given appropriate term when the student is not enrolled. The fee is not prorated and must be paid in full at the first visit. The fee is good for one (1) term.

Authority

BOG Regulation 1.001, University Board of Trustees Powers and Duties

History of Policy

New 07/14/11; Format Changed 09/10/19

APPROVED:

*s/Wilson G. Bradshaw
Wilson G. Bradshaw, President

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Date