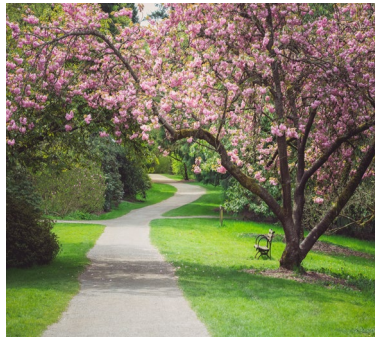




Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan

Academic Year 2025-2026

Frequently Asked Questions



2025-2026 Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)

Frequently Asked Questions

The following set of Frequently Asked Questions is presented in a format to facilitate the transfer of information about the student health insurance policy to students and parents.

Disclosure: This is only a brief description of coverage available under Certificate form ME SHIP CERT (2025). The Certificate will contain full details of coverage, limitations, exclusions, and termination provisions. If there are any conflicts between this document and the Certificate, the Certificate governs in all cases.

We have divided the FAQs in to three categories:

- A. Deciding Whether to Enroll in the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan or Request to Waive Coverage**
- B. When and How to Enroll in or Request to Waive Coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan**
- C. Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) Benefits**

SECTION A

A. Deciding Whether to Enroll in the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan or Request to Waive Coverage

Each year, you must decide whether to enroll in the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan or request to waive coverage under that Plan if you already have comparable coverage. The following questions and answers may help you make that decision.

1. Do I have to enroll in or request to waive coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan (Bates SHIP) and what are the deadlines?

Yes, all registered full-time students are required to have health insurance coverage, either through the Bates SHIP or through another individual or family plan that is considered ***“comparable coverage”***.

All registered full-time Domestic students are required to complete the enrollment/waiver process for the Bates College SHIP annually. During this process, you may enroll in the Bates SHIP or request to waive the Plan, provided you have your own comparable coverage.

For full-time students attending Bates College this fall, the deadline for enrollment or waiver request is ***May 21, 2025 for returning Domestic students and May 31, 2025 for incoming Domestic students. If you do not enroll or request a waiver by the deadline, you will be automatically enrolled in the Plan and will be responsible for the \$2,447 premium placed on your student account for coverage effective August 15, 2025 through August 14, 2026.***

2. Why does Bates College require health insurance for all full-time students?

Bates College requires that all full-time students have comprehensive health insurance coverage while enrolled, including coverage for both emergency and non-emergency care, to ensure that you have coverage for care in the state of Maine to meet your health care needs while at college.

3. If I am a full-time international student, do I need to enroll in or request to waive coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)?

No, if you are a full-time international student, you are automatically enrolled in the Bates College SHIP. Only those international students who are covered by an embassy-sponsored health plan, or other comparable coverage that is based in the United States, are able to ask for a special exception to waive coverage under the Bates SHIP. Travel coverage from your home country is not considered comparable coverage.

4. Can my parent complete the waiver request or enrollment process for me?

No, while It is a great idea to have your parent involved in helping you decide whether to enroll in the Bates SHIP, privacy laws require that you complete the waiver request or enrollment process. There are instructions on how to complete the enrollment or waiver request process in **FAQ B-12**.

If you are covered as a dependent on your parent's employer group medical insurance plan, you might have limited information about the medical insurance. With parental involvement, this can be a great learning opportunity and can be an important financial decision for the household, especially if you are the last dependent covered under your parent's employer group plan.

5. If I am requesting to waive coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan, do I have to provide any other information about my comparable coverage?

Yes, if you are requesting to waive coverage, you will be required to provide additional information that is important to successfully complete the process. See **FAQ B-12**. Any additional information requests, other correspondence, and confirmation will be sent to your email address Bates College has on file, which is usually your college email address.

6. What is comparable coverage?

Comparable coverage is a medical plan from a company based in the United States that provides benefits without lifetime maximums or pre-existing condition limitations. Generally, comparable coverage complies with the Affordable Care Act (the ACA, also called Obamacare) and provides equivalent or richer benefits than those provided under the Bates SHIP.

Your comparable coverage must have participating (In-Network **or** Out-of-Network) health care providers who are located in Maine and must offer benefits for a range of medical services in Maine.

An HMO plan from your home state may not have providers that provide non-emergency health care services while you are in Maine and would not be considered comparable coverage. Other than a closed HMO Plan, most medical plans offered by employers based in the United States to employees and their dependents are considered comparable coverage. However, there are exceptions.

To be considered comparable coverage, the medical plan must cover:

- Ambulatory care (visits to doctors and other healthcare professionals, outpatient hospital care you get without being admitted);
- Emergency care;
- Hospitalization (such as surgery and overnight stays);
- Pregnancy, maternity, and newborn care (both before and after birth);
- Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment (including counseling and psychotherapy);
- Prescription drugs (including brand-name drugs and specialty drugs);
- Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices (services and devices to help people with injuries, disabilities, or chronic conditions gain or recover mental and physical skills);
- Laboratory services; and
- Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management.

Additionally, the annual out-of-pocket limit cannot be more than \$9,200 for an individual or \$18,400 for a family.

For additional information, please go to : <https://www.bates.edu/health-services/insurance-2/>

What plans are not considered comparable coverage?

There are many types of plans and coverages that are not considered comparable coverage. While many of these plans provide emergency coverage worldwide, they do not cover non-emergency care while you are outside of their service area. Below are examples of plan that are not considered comparable coverage:

- Travel insurance plans;
- Those health plans that only cover specific occurrences, such as accidents or certain sicknesses;
- Those that only provide emergency services (such as your home state's HMO's without providers in Maine);
- Out-of-state Medicaid plans
- International plans (includes travel coverage from your home country);
- Health care sharing plans (Examples: Zion Health, One Share Health, Christian Healthcare Ministries);
- Plans from insurance companies not located within the United States; and
- Prescription discount plans (this is not insurance).

7. If I submit an online waiver request of the Bates SHIP because I have comparable coverage, will the request be verified and how long will that take?

Yes, Wellfleet verifies comparable coverage for all requests to waive coverage under the Bates SHIP. You will be asked to submit your identification number for your comparable medical plan and a copy of the front and back of your health insurance card, as well as answer a few questions. After you furnish this information, it takes a few days to verify coverage and you will be notified by email during each step of the process by Wellfleet. You should receive an email notification from Wellfleet with information about the status of your waiver. You have not completed the waiver process until you receive an email from Wellfleet indicating that your waiver request was approved. See **FAQ B-12**.

8. If I have comparable coverage under another medical plan, what should I consider in deciding whether to enroll in the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan?

We strongly suggest that you compare your current medical coverage to the coverage provided by the Bates SHIP. Information that will help you compare your current plan and the Bates SHIP includes the Summary of Benefits and Coverage and/or the Schedule of Benefits for both plans. These documents list services covered and out-of-pocket-costs, such as any deductibles, copays, coinsurance, and your maximum out of pocket costs. You may find your current plan's out-of-pocket costs are higher than

what you would pay if you were insured by the Bates SHIP. The Bates SHIP does not require you to meet an annual deductible before paying benefits – most employer-based health plans do have a deductible.

You also may want to consider the premium cost of your current coverage and the cost of the Bates SHIP, which is **\$2,447** for coverage from **August 15, 2025 through August 14, 2026**. Student Health Insurance Plans tend to be some of the lowest cost health plans available. It may be financially beneficial for you and your family if you enroll in the Bates SHIP.

You can also think about your expected health care needs. Considerations may include whether you regularly visit physicians or counselors, regularly fill prescriptions, or need other health care.

9. What impact has the Affordable Care Act (otherwise known as the ACA or Obamacare) had on Student Health Insurance Plans?

The ACA significantly changed Student Health Insurance Plans. While coverage for a comprehensive set of services was always available through SHIPs, there were usually dollar limits placed on the coverage. ***Since the ACA applies to your Student Health Insurance Plan, there are no lifetime or annual dollar maximums that apply and coverage is comprehensive with benefits for at least ten essential health services, with no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.*** Enrolling in the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan satisfies both federal and state requirements that you have health insurance.

10. My home state's Health Insurance Marketplace provides individual health plans. Can they be used as comparable coverage to waive coverage under the Bates SHIP?

Yes, if they cover you while you are in Maine at college. Each state's Health Insurance Marketplace provides access to ACA-compliant health insurance, so you may be able to use this insurance as comparable coverage and waive the Bates SHIP. **However**, if your Marketplace insurance plan is designed to be used in the state in which it was purchased (e.g., the healthcare network of providers does not extend to your location while you are at school and only emergency care would be covered), it **cannot** be used as comparable coverage entitling you to waive coverage under the Bates SHIP.

Even if your Marketplace insurance plan would entitle you to waive, the plan's out-of-pocket cost shares and premium costs may be higher than those under the Bates SHIP. ***Please closely review all plan characteristics before you make your medical insurance decision.***

SECTION B

B. When and How to Enroll in or Request to Waive Coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan

Once you have decided to either enroll in or request to waive coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan, the following Questions and Answers describe when and how you enroll in or request to waive coverage and may help you complete that process.

Disclosure: This is only a brief description of coverage available under Certificate form ME SHIP CERT (2025). The Certificate will contain full details of coverage, limitations, exclusions, and termination provisions. If there are any conflicts between this document and the Certificate, the Certificate governs in all cases.

11. If I enrolled in or waived coverage last year, do I have to do it again this year?

Yes, you need to enroll in or request to waive coverage each year that you are eligible as a full-time Bates College student.

12. When and how do I enroll in or request to waive coverage this year?

If you are a fall 2025 full-time domestic returning student, your enrollment or waiver request

deadline is: May 21, 2025 . For incoming full-time domestic students, the deadline is May 31, 2025.

For new spring or transfer students, your enrollment or waiver request deadline is: January 14, 2026

You will be notified of your eligibility to enroll in or request to waive coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan (Bates SHIP) each year during the late spring or summer (or in December if you are a new spring or transfer student).

To Enroll in the Bates SHIP

To enroll in the Bates SHIP, the first step is to go to the ***Garnet Gateway*** and click on ***Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)*** under the ***To-Do-List***

You can proceed to the “Enroll” function and follow the prompts. Once complete, you will receive an immediate confirmation of your enrollment.

To Request to Waive Coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan

If you do not want to enroll in the Bates SHIP and you want to request to waive coverage, you need:

- A copy of the front and back of your current health insurance identification (ID) card, and
- A copy of your Summary of Benefits and Coverage or Schedule of benefits.

You will need to complete:

- Your insurance member ID number,
- Subscriber name,
- Insurance company name, address, and phone number, and
- The coverage period dates of your plan.

To Request to Waive the Bates SHIP

To request to waive coverage under the Bates SHIP, the first step is to go to the ***Garnet Gateway*** and click on **Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)** under the **To-Do-List**

You can proceed to the “Waive with other insurance” function. You will be required to answer a few qualifying questions about your health insurance plan, the questions are:

1. Is your current medical insurance coverage provided through a state assistance program (commonly known as Medicaid) from a state other than Maine? (If you have MaineCare, answer “No” to this question).
2. Does your medical insurance plan provide non-emergency care in the state of Maine (regional HMO plans, such as Kaiser, typically do not)?
3. Is your current insurance carrier based in the United States?

You will also be required to upload a copy of the front and back of your health insurance card.

Based on this information Wellfleet will determine if the insurance plan meets the criteria to waive the Wellfleet SHIP. If the plan doesn’t meet the criteria listed below, you will receive an immediate email letting you know the waiver request has been declined with the reason, and you will be enrolled in the Bates SHIP. If your plan meets the criteria to waive the SHIP, you will receive an immediate email letting you know your waiver request is “pending” while your insurance information is being audited. Once the audit is complete, you will receive a second email notifying you if your request to waive has been approved or declined. Sometimes a waiver is declined because the information could not be verified - in this case, the email will give you instructions on what to do. If the waiver is declined, the email will state the reason for the declination, and you will be enrolled in the Bates SHIP.

If your waiver request is approved, the email will tell you that and give you a confirmation number. If you have questions about your waiver request, please contact **Wellfleet at (877)657-5030, TTY:711**

13. If my comparable coverage changes or terminates after the waiver period what do I do?

If your comparable coverage changes or you lose your coverage after waiving, you should notify Bates College Health Services within 30 days. Click here for their contact information:

<https://www.bates.edu/health-services/> . Health Services will be able to update your records at the college and also help you with the next steps if you need to purchase the Bates College SHIP. – please see **FAQ B-16**

14. If I enroll in the Bates SHIP, can I cancel my coverage later and get a refund?

Once you are enrolled for the year, if it is after the enrollment/waiver deadline, you remain enrolled in the Bates SHIP until the last day of the coverage period – **August 14, 2026**. You have no option to terminate coverage, unless you enter the armed forces. In that case, we will refund a pro-rated share of the paid premium.

15. If I change my mind and want to enroll instead of waive, or waive instead of enroll what do I do?

If it is before the enrollment/waiver deadline, you can contact **Wellfleet at (877) 657-5030, TTY: 711** and let them know you want to change your decision on the Bates SHIP. A Wellfleet representative can guide you through the steps.

If it is after the enrollment/waiver deadline, you cannot waive after enrolling in the Bates SHIP, unless you enter the armed forces. You may be able to enroll if you have had a qualifying event – please see **FAQ B-16**.

16. Can I enroll in the Bates SHIP if I waived previously, but then lost comparable coverage after the enrollment/waiver period closed?

Yes, you may be able to enroll. This is called a ***special enrollment period*** and it is only allowed in certain circumstances. You must have lost your comparable coverage due to a ***qualifying event***. Qualifying events include involuntary loss of coverage from a comparable health insurance plan for reasons such as:

- Reaching the age limit of another health insurance plan,
- Loss of health insurance through due to a job loss/change.

You can enroll within 30 days of the loss of coverage. When enrolling in the Bates SHIP, you must submit to Wellfleet a letter from the carrier showing your dates of coverage (including the end date).

17. If I have dependents, is coverage under the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan available for my family?

Yes, coverage is available for your dependents, such as your spouse, domestic partner or your children. Dependent enrollment is completed online via your Online Account with the insurance plan. Your dependents must be enrolled for the same coverage period as yourself.

SECTION C

C. Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) Benefits

If you have decided to enroll in the Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan, the following Questions and Answers may provide helpful information about your coverage and how you can use it.

Disclosure: This is only a brief description of coverage available under Certificate form ME SHIP CERT (2025). The Certificate will contain full details of coverage, limitations, exclusions, and termination provisions. If there are any conflicts between this document and the Certificate, the Certificate governs in all cases.

18. What benefits does my Bates College Student Health Insurance Plan (Bates SHIP) provide?

Your Plan coverage is fully compliant with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and all other federal and state requirements. It pays for a variety of medical services, including:

- Preventive care services **at no cost** including routine physicals and examinations, screenings, GYN examinations, prescription drugs and most immunizations;
- Hospital room and board and care;
- Inpatient and outpatient procedures and surgeries;
- Doctor and other health care professional office visits;
- Labs services, x-rays and imaging tests;
- Inpatient and outpatient mental and substance use disorder services;
- Ambulance transportation;
- Emergency care and urgent care;
- Prescription drugs;
- Home healthcare;
- Rehabilitation and habilitation services;
- Maternity and childbirth services; and
- Chemotherapy and radiation treatments,

For services that are not preventive, your Plan pays for 90% of your eligible medical expenses. Each plan year, your out-of-pocket costs are limited to a maximum of **\$6,350**.

For prescription drugs from **In-Network** pharmacies, you pay:

- \$0 for preventive care medications at In-Network Pharmacies;
- \$0 for Zero Cost Generic medications at In-Network Pharmacies;
- \$10 copay for a 30-day supply of Tier-1 (Generic) drugs;
- \$20 copay for a 30-day supply of a Tier-2 (Preferred Brand) drugs,
- \$30 copay for a 30-day supply of a Tier-3 (Non-Preferred) drugs; and
- \$30 copay for a 30-day supply of Specialty drugs.

Note: in some cases, your doctor must get prior authorization from the insurance company before a drug will be covered under your Plan. You can see which drugs require preapproval by visiting <http://wellfleetrx.com/students/formularies/>

19. How do I see if my pharmacy is in the network?

Click on this link: <https://wellfleetrx.com/students/pharmacy-network/> and select **BIN 003858: Wellfleet Rx/ESI listing**.

20. How do I see if my doctor, hospital, therapist, or other medical provider accepts this insurance?

Your plan does not have a network, so you can go to any provider. Most providers will bill directly to the insurance carrier using the information from your insurance card. The ID card contains information that will allow the provider to verify your coverage electronically or by calling Wellfleet.

21. Am I still covered under the Plan during breaks and vacations?

Yes, your plan is effective from **August 15, 2025 through August 14, 2026**.

22. What if I am living off-campus, traveling, or studying outside the United States?

Your Plan provides access to a worldwide coverage and a comprehensive program that will arrange emergency medical and travel assistance services, repatriation services and other services when you are traveling.

For general inquiries regarding the travel access assistance services coverage, please call **Wellfleet** at **(877) 657-5030, TTY 711**.

If you are traveling and need assistance in North America, call the **Assistance Center** toll-free at: **(877) 305-1966** or if you are in a foreign country, call collect at: **(715) 295-9311**.

When you call, please provide your name, school name, the group number shown on your ID card, and a description of your situation. If the condition is an emergency, go immediately to the nearest physician or hospital without delay and then contact the 24- hour Assistance Center.

23. Do I need a referral from Bates College's Student Health or Counseling Services to see an off-campus healthcare provider?

No, you don't need a referral. Still, if it is not an emergency, you may decide to seek care or advice first from Bates College Health Services. Staff at the Health Services can connect you with valuable on-campus services or to providers in local care delivery system off campus. For more information, visit Bates College's Health Services website at: <https://www.bates.edu/health-services/>

24. I expect to graduate this year. Does my Student Health Insurance Plan cover me after I graduate?

Yes, you will be covered under your Plan until the end of the policy period for which you are enrolled and have paid your premium. If you enrolled effective **August 15, 2025** and paid for annual coverage and you graduate in the spring, you will be covered until the end of the policy year, which is **August 14, 2026**.

25. How do I get an ID card for my Student Health Insurance Plan?

You can log into your online account at Garnet Gateway, go to the Information Menu and then choose Student Life Menu, then select Student Health Insurance and that will take you to Wellfleet where you can log-in to your online health insurance account. On the landing page of your Wellfleet account please see the "ID card(s)" button in the middle of the screen. Click the button and then you can either chose to **"View Your ID card"(which will also allow you to print it)**, **"Email ID card"** or request a hard copy card to be mailed to you under **"Request Replacement ID card"**. Another good way to have your ID card readily available is to save it to your Smartphone or in your Apple Wallet. To do this, select the **"Email ID card"** option, then save the card to your device.

26. What if I need more information about my Student Health Insurance Plan?

You can go to <https://www.studentinsurance.com/Client/800> or www.crossagency.com/health/bates/2025-2026

27. Are there any changes to the Plan for the 2025-2026 Policy Year?

Yes, there have been benefit plan changes for 2025-2026:

- NEW BENEFIT: The benefit for Gender Affirming Service will be the same as for any other Mental Health Services.
- NEW BENEFIT: Musculoskeletal telehealth program (Virtual Physical Therapy) will be included in plan at no member cost share.
- NEW BENEFIT: The Fertility Preservation Benefit will be included in the plan at the group level coinsurance.
- NEW EXCLUSION: Medical marijuana, cannabis, or other supplies and/or services rendered at a dispensary will be excluded. This does not include synthetic pharmaceutical products approved by the FDA and included on the Formulary.

28. How much does the Plan cost?

The premium for the Annual Term 8/15/2025 through 8/14/2026 is **\$2,447**

The premium for the Spring Term 1/1/2026 through 8/14/2026 is **\$1,515**

29. What is the difference between the 25-26 Bates Student Health Plan and from plans in years past. Beginning with the 2024-2025 Bates Student Health Insurance Policy, the policy will move from a network provider-based plan to a reference-based pricing program. This means that the policy no longer uses a network of providers and claim amounts based on pre-negotiated contracts. Members can obtain their medical care from any healthcare provider without regard to a network of health care providers.

Healthcare providers will be reimbursed using a reference-based price that is determined using historical data including Medicare, usual and customary levels, and cost to charge data. These factors and previously accepted rates are used to create a fair market price for the services provided.

30. Will my Wellfleet student health insurance plan ID card change?

The insurance ID card will be updated for the 25-26 plan year, but the ID number will remain the same. Download the updated card from the Wellfleet online account or download through the Wellfleet App. ID cards will be available in early August.

31. How do I find a provider that accepts my health plan?

The Bates Student Health Plan insured by Wellfleet Insurance does not use a provider network. You may use any provider to receive the coverage outlined on the schedule of benefits: <https://www.studentinsurance.com/Client/800> . With Wellfleet True Choice, students are free to choose any provider. After a student has enrolled the student can login at <https://www.studentinsurance.com/Client/800> to access their plan information. Students can also download the Wellfleet Student mobile app which provides access to their plan information.

32. What if a provider refuses to see a member or forces the member to pay at the time of service.

Members should ask the provider call Wellfleet at (877)-657-5035. (This phone number will be on the member ID card), to verify benefits, eligibility, and/or copays. Customer Service Reps will educate providers on the Wellfleet True Choice Plan, and how to submit a bill. In the event the member pays up front, they should submit their bill and receipt to Wellfleet for reimbursement at customerservice@wellfleetinsurance.com.

33. Is it possible that a provider will not accept the reference-based price and pursue me for the difference between the charge and the reimbursement rate.

This practice is known as balance billing. It is possible that a provider will send you a bill to collect the balance. If this happens, you will need to contact Wellfleet for assistance. , The member should forward (via email is preferred) any provider bills to Wellfleet and no claim form required. Claim submission information is on the ID card. Questions can be direct to customerservice@wellfleetinsurance.com.

Another way to connect with Wellfleet is to download the Wellfleet App and take a picture of the bill. Upload the bill to Wellfleet through the App and Wellfleet will contact the provider to come to resolution. Or Students can call Customer Service at 877-657-5035. Messaging will also be on the Member's Explanation of Benefits (EOB).

34. How are claims submitted to Wellfleet insurance Company?

In the majority of cases, your provider will submit claims on your behalf through the electronic claims system. Your ID card has the information for both electronic and paper claims submission on the back of the ID Card. Should a provider not submit a claim on your behalf to Wellfleet Insurance Company, The member should forward (via email is preferred) any provider bills to Wellfleet and no claim form required. Claim submission information is on the ID card. Questions can be direct to customerservice@wellfleetinsurance.com.

Important Contact Information & Resources



Contact Us

Wellfleet Group, LLC
PO Box 15369
Springfield, Massachusetts 01115-5369
(877) 657-5030, TTY 711
www.wellfleetstudent.com



Cross Benefit Solutions
150 Mill Street, Suite 4
Lewiston, ME 04240
800-537-6444

[www.crossagency.com/
college-health/bates-college-
2025-2026/](http://www.crossagency.com/college-health/bates-college-2025-2026/)

Plan Administration

Enrollment, Eligibility, & Waivers
Wellfleet Group, LLC
PO Box 15369
Springfield, Massachusetts 01115-5369
(877) 657-5030, TTY 711
www.wellfleetstudent.com

Benefits, Claim Status, & ID Cards

Wellfleet Group, LLC PO Box 15369
Springfield, Massachusetts 01115-5369
(877) 657-5030, TTY 711
www.wellfleetstudent.com
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Eastern Time
Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Eastern Time

Pharmacy Benefits Manager

For information about the Wellfleet Rx/ESI
Prescription Drug Program, please
visit www.wellfleetstudent.com.

Member Pharmacy Help
(877) 640-7940



For further information about your plan please
use the QR code below.

