



**SMU** | HUMAN  
RESOURCES

**2024**  
**Emeriti Health Account**  
**&**  
**Retiree Health Insurance**

## INTRODUCTION

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) below are broken down into three separate but related sections: the Emeriti Health Account, Retiree Health Insurance, and the Emeriti Reimbursement Benefit. It is important that you take the time to review this document from beginning to end.

The **Emeriti Health Account**, introduced in 2008, enables eligible employees, with matching contributions from SMU, to save during their working years for out-of-pocket healthcare expenses incurred after retirement. ***This section does not apply to individuals who retired prior to 2008.***

**Retiree Health Insurance**, available to employees who meet specific eligibility criteria when they leave SMU, provides several medical, prescription drug, and dental options. SMU currently pays a portion of medical and prescription premiums on behalf of employees who meet SMU's retirement eligibility criteria when they leave SMU.

The **Emeriti Reimbursement Benefit** enables you to use the funds in your Emeriti Health Account to pay for (on a tax-free basis) qualified health care expenses not covered by Medicare or other health insurance; insurance premiums (such as "Early Retiree" medical and dental insurance, Emeriti medical, Rx and dental insurance, COBRA, Long-Term Care insurance); and certain over-the-counter medications. ***This section does not apply to individuals who retired prior to 2008.***

***You will find  
important contact Information  
on the last page of this document!***

# EMERITI HEALTH ACCOUNT

## What are the Emeriti Health Account Participation Requirements?

SMU faculty and staff working 35 or more hours per week are required to begin contributing to an Emeriti Health Account on the first day of the month following their 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. SMU matching contributions begin at that time.

- *The 2024 monthly employee contribution and the monthly SMU matching contribution each equal \$93.64* (prorated based on pay schedule).
- *The 2024 annual employee contribution and the annual SMU matching contribution each equal \$1123.68.*

## How Long Will I Contribute to the Emeriti Health Account?

This depends on how long you are employed with SMU after January 1, 2008. Once you reach age 40, you and SMU will contribute to your Emeriti Health Account for 25 years or until you leave or retire from SMU, whichever is earlier.

## How Does the Vesting Provision Work?

Your contributions vest immediately. SMU matching contributions vest after you complete seven (7) full years of SMU employment.

## What are the Tax Advantages of the Emeriti Health Account?

There are many tax advantages, including:

- ❖ SMU matching contributions to the Health Account are treated as a tax-free benefit.
- ❖ Employee mandatory contributions are made on a pre-tax basis, reducing the average “real cost” of your monthly contribution.
- ❖ Emeriti Health Account investment income is tax-free.
- ❖ Distributions from the Health Account for qualified health care expenses during retirement years are tax-free.
- ❖ If you leave SMU all of your contributions and related investment income, and all vested SMU contributions and related investment income, belong to you for reimbursement of health care costs.
- ❖ Employee voluntary contributions are made on an after-tax basis, but investment earnings and distributions for qualified expenses have the same tax-free treatment as pre-tax contributions.

## What Options Do I Have to Invest My Contributions and the Contributions SMU Makes on My Behalf?

TIAA is the investment manager for your Emeriti Health Account. *Full-time employees enrolled on a mandatory basis at age 40 will default to the age-appropriate TIAA Lifecycle Fund.* You can change future investment allocations at any time by logging into your account at [tiaa-cref.org](https://www.tiaa-cref.org) or by calling the ***Emeriti Service Center (1-866-363-7484, press option #3).***

- ❖ The TIAA Lifecycle Funds are “targeted retirement class” funds, designed to offer a simple yet diversified approach to long-term investing. Each Lifecycle Fund invests in a diversified portfolio of well-established, actively managed TIAA mutual funds. Over time, the investment mix becomes more conservative as each Fund approaches its targeted retirement year. The Lifecycle funds automatically rebalance.
- ❖ The TIAA Money Market Fund is designed to provide a stable investment and is not subject to market volatility. It seeks to assure the value of your investment at \$1 per share.
  - Money market funds invest in Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, and other stable, short-term investments. They help investors reach short-term financial goals because they usually deliver a fixed, modest return over a short period of time. Similar to bond funds, money market funds are sometimes referred to as “fixed income” funds.

## What Should I Know About Managing My Investment Options?

- ❖ SMU’s contributions and your own future contributions will be directed to the default age-appropriate TIAA lifecycle fund **until you decide to change future allocations**, which you may do at any time by calling the Emeriti Service Center.
- ❖ You may make fund transfers among investment options at any time in amounts of \$1,000 or more, or the full value of your account if less than \$1,000.
- ❖ To change your investment allocation, log into your Emeriti Health Account at <https://www.tiaa.org/public/index.html>, or call the Emeriti Service Center at 1-866-EMERITI (1-866-363-7484) and select option 3.

## Can I Make Voluntary Contributions If I Am Not Yet Age 40? If I Am Age 40 Or Older, Can I Make Additional Contributions?

If you are less than age 40 and a full-time employee, you may make ***un-matched*** contributions to an Emeriti Health Account on an ***after-tax*** basis. If you are age 40+ and making mandatory pre-tax contributions, you may also make additional ***un-matched*** contributions to your account on an ***after-tax*** basis. As with age 40+ pre-tax contributions, investment income is tax-free, and distributions made after retirement are tax-free.

- ❖ **IMPORTANT:** You must keep in mind that your Health Account is available only for your health care expenses – and the expenses of your spouse and qualified eligible dependents – after you leave SMU. After your death, your account will continue to be available to your spouse and any qualified dependents, for their health care expenses.
- ❖ At the point when no qualified dependents remain, any balance remaining in your account reverts in part to current SMU participant accounts and in part to SMU (for future Emeriti expenses), ***not to your heirs***. With this in mind, another option would be to increase contributions to your SMU 403(b) Retirement Plan account, which is “willable”, or to another investment vehicle. *This is an issue you should discuss with a financial advisor, particularly if you are considering making voluntary after-tax contributions to your Emeriti Health Account.*

## What Happens To My Health Account When I Leave SMU?

You will have access to your vested Health Account assets when you terminate employment or retire. Your Health Account assets can be used for reimbursement of qualified health care expenses for yourself and your eligible dependents, and your distributions will not be taxed. ***If you leave before satisfying the 7-year vesting requirement, SMU contributions will be forfeited.***

- ❖ Your Emeriti Health Account balance **must** remain with TIAA after you leave SMU. TIAA will continue to manage your account until funds are depleted. Transfer of funds to a Roth IRA or other investment vehicle is **not** allowed under IRS/SEC regulations due to the special tax advantages and specific purpose (i.e., reimbursement of qualified healthcare expenses) of the Emeriti Health Account.

**IMPORTANT:** SMU pays all fees related to administration of the Emeriti Health Account – for active participants and for SMU retirees. ***Participants who leave SMU without meeting SMU’s retirement eligibility criteria (age 60/10 years of SMU employment) will be responsible for these administration fees.*** See *Are There Fees That I Should Be Aware Of?* below.

- ❖ ***When you leave SMU***, you will have immediate access to your account for reimbursement of qualified health care expenses – with the same tax-free distribution treatment.
- ❖ **IMPORTANT:** All assets must be moved from the Lifecycle Funds to the Money Market prior to submitting expenses for reimbursement. You may do this by calling the Emeriti Service Center (1-866-363-7484, press option #3).
- ❖ Please refer to the Emeriti Reimbursement section of this document for more information.

## Who Will Have Access To My Health Account After I Die?

Your spouse and other eligible dependents will have access to your account.

- ❖ Eligible dependents can use the vested assets in your account until they die, or reach majority in the case of dependent children.

## Who Is Considered An Eligible Dependent?

An eligible dependent includes your spouse and any other dependent relatives who meet the criteria established by the IRS.

- ❖ This would include relatives who live in your home and are dependent on you for 50% of their financial needs: a child (if, (a) under age 19 at the end of the year, (b) under age 24 at the end of the year if a full-time student, or (c) any age if permanently and totally disabled), parent, grandparent, grandchild, aunt/uncle, niece/nephew, etc. Access to detailed information regarding IRS qualified dependents can be found on the Emeriti website.

## Are There Fees That I Should Be Aware Of?

Following is a summary of the various fees associated with the Emeriti Health Account:

- ❖ There is a monthly recordkeeping fee of **\$0.67** to cover participant enrollment, the processing of contributions to the Health Accounts, participant education and services, and other administrative support. ***SMU pays this fee on behalf of active employees and individuals who have met the age 60/10 years of SMU employment criteria at retirement.***
- ❖ There is an Emeriti fee of **\$5.00** per month for participant education and communications, and the ongoing oversight, administration, evaluation, and enhancement of the Emeriti Program's products and services. ***SMU pays this fee on behalf of active employees and individuals who have met the age 60/10 years of SMU employment criteria at retirement.***
- ❖ There is a monthly reimbursement and insurance enrollment fee of **\$1.00** for active employees and **\$6.00** for retirees. ***SMU pays this fee on behalf of active employees and individuals who have met the age 60/10 years of SMU employment criteria at retirement.***
- ❖ SMU does **not** pay fees for those who leave SMU without meeting the age 60/10 years of SMU employment retirement criteria.
- ❖ Fees and expenses associated with certain investment options may also apply. ***These fees are the responsibility of the participant.*** Please contact TIAA for additional information.

## **How Can I Keep Track of My Health Account?**

To view your Emeriti Health Account and make investment changes, log-in to your Emeriti Health Account at <https://www.tiaa.org/public/index.html>.

## RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE

### **Under What Circumstances Will I Have Access To Retiree Health Insurance After I Leave SMU?**

As long as you have met the SMU eligibility requirements at retirement – at least age 60 and at least 10 years of SMU employment – you will have access to either “Early Retiree” or Emeriti Health Insurance, depending on your age.

### **What If I Meet The Retirement Criteria But Retire Before Age 65?**

If you have not yet reached age 65, you will be considered an “Early Retiree” and will remain in the BCBSTX medical option you are enrolled in at the time you retire. SMU pays a portion of the medical premiums for “Early Retirees” and you will have an opportunity to change your medical and dental coverage during each annual Open Enrollment. ***You will be contacted by SMU Human Resources shortly before you reach age 65 so you can enroll in Emeriti Health Insurance.***

### **What If I Meet The Retirement Criteria But Was Not Enrolled In A SMU Medical Plan During The 5-Year Period Preceding Retirement?**

As long as you meet the age 60 and 10 years of employment criteria you will have access to the Emeriti Medical and prescription coverage when you reach age 65 and enroll in Medicare Parts A and B, ***but you will not be eligible for the SMU premium subsidy discussed below.*** You will, however, have access to the contributions you made, and the vested contributions SMU made to your Emeriti Health Account during your active years - to pay for premiums and other eligible health care expenses after retirement.

### **Can My Spouse Also Enroll In Early Retiree or Emeriti Health Insurance?**

If you and your spouse were ***married for five consecutive years immediately preceding your retirement,*** you may enroll your spouse.

- ❖ **If you are age 65 or older when you retire but your spouse is less than 65,** you will enroll in Emeriti Health Insurance and your spouse will remain in the BCBSTX PPO option they are enrolled in at the time you retire. At age 65, he or she will be added to your Emeriti Health Insurance.
- ❖ **If your spouse is age 65 or older when you retire but you are less than age 65,** you and your spouse will remain in the BCBSTX PPO option you are enrolled in at the time you retire. When you reach 65, you will both have an opportunity to enroll in Emeriti Health Insurance.

### **Does SMU Pay Any Portion Of My Retiree Medical Premiums?**

SMU will pay a portion of your Medical and Rx premiums if you meet all of the criteria below:



- ❖ ***You were hired prior to January 1, 2008, and you were age 40 or older on January 1, 2008.***
- ❖ You meet the age 60 and 10 years of SMU employment criteria when you retire, **and**
- ❖ You were enrolled in an SMU Medical plan for the 5-year period immediately preceding retirement.

If you are an “Early Retiree”, SMU still pays an Employer Portion of the monthly BCBSTX medical premium for you and your eligible spouse.

If you are an “Emeriti Retiree”, SMU pays the following each month for you and your eligible spouse:

<u>Age Band</u>	<u>SMU Premium Subsidy</u>
Age 65-69	\$142.00
Age 70-74	\$166.00
Age 75+	\$198.00

***As of 2024***, SMU’s premium subsidy amounts have been frozen going forward at the amount currently in effect. However, when you and your spouse age into another “age band” (i.e., from the Age 65-69 age band to the Age 70-74 age band), you will be eligible for the frozen subsidy that applies to the new age band.

### **Who Is Eligible For Retiree Dental Coverage?**

If you are an “Early Retiree” retiring prior to age 65 and have met the age 60 and 10 years of service requirements, you and your eligible spouse may continue to remain enrolled in the BCBSTX Dental Plan until you reach age 65. SMU does not contribute to the cost of Dental coverage.

If you are age 65 at retirement and have at least 10 years of SMU employment, you and your eligible spouse may enroll in the Emeriti Dental Plan administered by Aetna. SMU does not contribute to the cost of Dental coverage.

- ❖ ***If you are not enrolled in a Dental Plan when you retire, there will be a 12-month waiting period before Major dental expenses will be covered under the Emeriti Dental Plan.*** However, the waiting period will be waived if there is no more than a 3 month break in coverage and proof of prior coverage is provided.
- ❖ If you wish to enroll in Emeriti Dental coverage you must also enroll in Emeriti Medical and Prescription coverage.

### **What If I Decide Not To Enroll In Emeriti Health Insurance? Will I Ever Have An Opportunity To Opt Back In?**

Generally, if you decide not to enroll in Emeriti Health Insurance, you cannot enroll at a later time. However, if you decide not to enroll because your spouse has coverage elsewhere, and he/she later loses that coverage, you will have an opportunity to enroll in Emeriti Health Insurance, ***although you will not be eligible for the SMU premium subsidy.***

You will also have an opportunity to opt back in if you experience a qualified “life change” event such as marriage or divorce, ***although you will not be eligible for the SMU premium subsidy.***

### **How Will I Pay Health Insurance Premiums Once I Retire?**

Early Retiree Medical and Dental premiums are administered by SMU Benefits Accounting. When you retire, you will receive instructions on how to pay your share of the premiums on-line.

Emeriti Health Insurance premiums are administered by CBIZ (formerly Savitz). If you have a balance in your Emeriti Health Account, your account will be debited each month to cover your share of the premium. If you have met the SMU retirement eligibility criteria described above, the SMU premium subsidy will be deposited into your account on a monthly basis, and then withdrawn when the premium is due to be paid to Aetna.

- ❖ When you enroll in the Emeriti Health Plan, CBIZ will work with you to set up Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your personal bank account. If you deplete your Emeriti Health Account, CBIZ will draw from your bank account (via EFT) only the funds needed to cover your share of the monthly premium.

### **Are There Fees That I Should Be Aware Of?**

Following is a summary of the various fees associated with the Emeriti Health Account and the Emeriti Health Insurance Program:

- ❖ There is a monthly recordkeeping fee and a monthly fee to process claims reimbursements and manage insurance premium payments. This fee covers the cost of enrolling you and your eligible dependents in Emeriti Health Insurance and the Reimbursement Benefit and processing premium payments and ACH transfers from your personal Bank account. ***SMU pays this fee on behalf of individuals who have met the SMU retirement eligibility criteria at the time they leave SMU.***
- ❖ There is also a monthly Emeriti fee for participant education and communications, including newsletters and campus workshops, the ongoing oversight, administration, evaluation, and enhancement of the Emeriti Program’s products and services. ***SMU pays this fee on behalf of individuals who have met the SMU retirement eligibility criteria at the time they leave SMU.***
- ❖ Fees and expenses associated with certain investment options may also apply. ***These fees are the responsibility of the participant.*** Please contact TIAA-CREF for additional information.

**IMPORTANT:** Participants who leave SMU without meeting SMU’s retirement eligibility criteria (age 60/10 years of SMU employment) will be responsible for all administration fees. With that in mind, you should begin using the funds in your Health Account as soon as you are eligible to do so after leaving SMU.

## EMERITI REIMBURSEMENT BENEFIT

*(This section does not apply to individuals who retired prior to 2008 and never contributed to the Emeriti Health Account)*

### What is the Emeriti Reimbursement Benefit?

The Emeriti Reimbursement Benefit, administered by CBIZ (formerly Savitz), enables you to use the funds contributed to your Emeriti Health Account while you were employed by SMU, to pay for qualified health expenses not covered by Medicare or other health insurance.

### When Can I Start Using the Reimbursement Benefit?

If you leave SMU, you will have immediate access to your vested Health Account assets for reimbursement of qualified out-of-pocket health care expenses.

### Who Has Access to the Reimbursement Benefit?

You, your spouse, dependent children, and dependent relatives are eligible to use the assets in your Health Account for reimbursement of eligible out-of-pocket health expenses. Qualified dependents can be added when you submit a claim for reimbursement.

### What is Considered a Qualified Health Expense?

Below is a partial list of qualified expenses. A wide range of health care expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement as long as they satisfy the requirements of Section 213(d) of the IRS Code. Please contact CBIZ if you have questions.

- Medicare premiums and cost shares
- Supplemental insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, co-pays
- Vision, dental, hearing care
- Over-the-counter and non-formulary drugs (with a prescription from doctor)
- Medical equipment
- Long-Term Care Insurance premiums
- Medical expenses associated with nursing home or in-home health care services

### How Are Reimbursements Processed?

Reimbursement claims are processed by CBIZ. Claims can be faxed or mailed to CBIZ. See Contact Information at the end of this document.

- ❖ Claims can only be paid from assets invested in the TIAA **Money Market Fund**. **If you do not have a sufficient balance in the Money Market Fund, reimbursements cannot be made.**
  - ✓ To make sure that you have allocated sufficient assets in the Money Market Fund to cover your claim(s), please contact a TIAA representative at 1-866-EMERITI (1-866-363-7484) and press “3” for assistance. You may also log-in to the TIAA secure website at <https://www.tiaa.org/public/index.html> . You will find details about your Emeriti Health Account under the "PLAN BALANCE" tab.

You can also transfer assets to the Money Market Fund through the TIAA website.

- ❖ Rather than have your reimbursement mailed to you by check, you may elect to have your reimbursement deposited directly into your personal bank account. To activate this option, contact the Emeriti Service Center at 1-866-EMERITI and press “2” to obtain a Banking Information Form, if you have not yet submitted this form.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

### Emeriti Service Center

**Customer Service:** 866-363-7484

Monday – Friday, 8am – 4:30pm Central Time

- ❖ **Press Option #1** to speak to an **Aetna** specialist if you have specific questions about the Emeriti Health Insurance options.
- ❖ **Press Option #2** to speak to a **CBIZ** (formerly Savitz) specialist if you have specific questions about the Reimbursement Benefit.
- ❖ **Press Option #3** to speak to a **TIAA** specialist if you have questions about your Emeriti Health Account (i.e., investment options, how to move assets from the Lifecycle Funds to the Money Market Account, or vice versa).

**Emeriti Website:** <https://www.myemeritibenefits.org/>

**TIAA Website:** <https://www.tiaa.org/public/index.html>

### Emeriti Health Account Reimbursement

Reimbursement claims are processed by CBIZ (formerly Savitz). Claims can be faxed or mailed.

- ❖ **Fax to:** 215-563-9943
- ❖ **Mail to:** CBIZ  
Attn: Emeriti Benefits Center  
1845 Walnut Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103