PTS Statement on Student Health Insurance Coverage

As you may know, the State of New Jersey requires that all full-time students enrolled in post-secondary schools within the State have major medical insurance coverage. Princeton Theological Seminary, like almost all private colleges and universities, requires students to have health insurance that is comparable to the plan endorsed by the Seminary as a requirement for students to waive enrollment in the Seminary endorsed student health insurance plan. The Student Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) provided by the Seminary has a Platinum coverage actuarial value and provides nationwide/world-wide access to health care providers. This year, the Seminary will accept both Gold and Platinum plans that are purchased by students on the health insurance exchanges. In most instances, even with premium subsidies, Gold and Platinum programs available in Mercer County will have higher or comparable costs to the Seminary's SHBP.

In addition to assuring access to a broad spectrum of health care providers, including mental health care providers in the Princeton area, and lower out-of-pocket expenses, the SHBP provides coverage anywhere in the United States, through a broad network of health care hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers, and world-wide coverage. We have seen the benefits of this program in providing student access to world-class health care providers for serious medical conditions (e.g., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City). Even for routine health care needs, this nationwide coverage is essential for Field Education and other travel outside of the Princeton area.

We are closely following trends in the student health care field in response to the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. This includes consideration of the New Jersey statutory requirement to provide a student health insurance/benefit program for our students. We will keep our students informed of these trends and any impact they may have on the PTS SHBP going forward.

Below you will find contact information for emergencies and psychological crisis as well as links to the Princeton Healthcare Systems website, the Gallagher website where you need to enroll in the SHBP or waive coverage (if you qualify), the 2014-15 SHBP brochure and other helpful links to assist you in managing your health care needs while you are enrolled.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 609-497-7805 or email us at admissions@ptsem.edu.

Best wishes,

Admissions and Financial Aid Staff