



Puja Pannu <pujap@ucr.edu>

Open Enrollment Begins Today!

1 message

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To: ucrfacultyandstaff@scotmail.ucr.edu

Thu, Oct 29, 2026 at 7:27 AM



Benefits Open Enrollment for the 2027 plan year is officially open today!

Open Enrollment runs from **Thursday, October 29, 2026 (8:00 a.m.) through Friday, November 20, 2026 (5:00 p.m.)**. This is your annual window to review and adjust your UC health and welfare coverage effective January 1, 2027.

What You Need to Do:

- **Review Plan Changes & Rates:** Please review the 2027 medical plan designs, rates, copays, and out-of-pocket limits. Log in to [UCPath](#) between 8 a.m. on Thursday, October 29, and 5 p.m. on Friday, November 20, to enroll or make changes to your benefits.
- **FSA Re-enrollment Required:** Flexible Spending Accounts (**Health FSA and DepCare FSA**) do **not** roll over. You must actively re-enroll in UCPath to continue contributions for 2027.
- **Automatic Rollover:** If you are satisfied with your current coverage and do not participate in an FSA, no action is required—your existing elections will automatically roll over for 2027.
- **New Hires:** Employees hired between mid-October and December 31, 2026, will receive a separate enrollment packet via USPS from the UCPath Center.

To help you navigate your options and make informed decisions, Central Human Resources and our plan partners are hosting a series of informational webinars, virtual help desks, and our signature on-campus benefits fair. Below is the complete schedule of upcoming events and support opportunities available throughout the Open Enrollment period:

Kaiser Permanente

Thursday, October 29, 2026

9:30am to 10:30am

[Zoom Meeting](#)

Faculty & Staff Virtual Help Desk

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Email: benefits@ucr.edu •

Telephone: (951) 827-2636 or (951)

827-5086

Blue Shield Accolade/**Transcarent**

Monday, November 4, 2026

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

[Zoom Registration](#)

UCR Health Overview

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

11:00am to 12:00pm

[Zoom Meeting](#)**UC Riverside's Annual Benefits,
Health & Wellness Fair**

Thursday, November 12, 2026

10:00am to 2:00pm

[Registration](#)

Blue Shield Accolade/**Transcarent**

Friday, November 13, 2026

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

[Zoom Registration](#)

**Kaiser Mobile Van In-Person
Event**

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

9:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Olmstead Plaza

Free biometric screenings & flu
shots (*biometric screening must be
completed for flu shot*).[Register and secure your health
screening appointment.](#)**California Casualty**

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

10:00am to 11:00am

[Zoom Meeting](#)

Health Net HMO

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

11:00am to 12:00pm

[Zoom Meeting](#)

Blue Shield Accolade/**Transcarent**

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

[Zoom Registration](#)

Health Equity/HSA

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

2:00pm to 3:00pm

[Zoom Meeting](#)

What to Know About Your 2027 Benefits & Costs

As healthcare costs continue to rise nationwide, the University of California remains committed to preserving comprehensive coverage and strong plan choices:

- **Continued Strong University Contribution:** UC will continue to cover, on average, **over 85% of total medical premiums** across pay bands and coverage tiers, contributing an additional **\$294 million** toward employee health benefits this year.
- **Expiration of the UCR Campus Premium Subsidy** for Non Represented Employees: Please note that the temporary UCR employee medical premium subsidy provided for 2026 to help offset rising healthcare costs will conclude on December 31, 2026, as communicated when it was introduced. As a result, higher monthly premium contributions will apply for the monthly premium contributions for the 2027 plan year.
- **Medical Premium Adjustments:** For employees whose medical premiums are not governed by collective bargaining, the 2027 standard monthly premium adjustments for individual coverage will range between \$6.58 and \$29.24, depending on salary tier and plan election. **However, due to the expiration of the 2026 UCR Campus Premium Subsidy, higher increases will apply to the Kaiser and UC Blue & Gold HMO plans for Pay Band 1 and Pay Band 2.**
- **Stable Carrier Options:** UC will continue to offer its full suite of medical plans with no carrier changes for 2027. Health Net will continue to administer the UC Blue & Gold HMO through the end of 2027.
- **Out-of-Pocket Maximums:** Annual out-of-pocket maximums for **Kaiser Permanente** and **UC Blue & Gold HMO** will adjust to **\$3,000 for individual coverage** and **\$6,000 for two-party and family coverage**.
- **UC Health Network Partnership:** UC Health continues to help mitigate healthcare costs by limiting rate increases for care delivered across UC medical centers and clinics.
- For full details, plan summaries, and cost comparison matrices, please visit the [UCNet 2027 Open Enrollment Website](#) and the [UCR HR Benefits Open Enrollment Website](#).

Will Your Current Benefits Automatically Roll Over?

- **Yes, for most plans:** If you are satisfied with your existing medical, dental, vision, life, and disability selections, **no action is required**. Your current elections will roll over into 2027 automatically.
- **CRITICAL EXCEPTION — Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs):** Enrollment in the [Health FSA](#) and/or [Dependent Care FSA \(DepCare\)](#) **does NOT roll over automatically**. To participate for plan year 2027, you **must actively re-enroll** during Open Enrollment.

Tools and Resources

- [Frequently Asked Questions for Open Enrollment](#)
- The [UC Riverside 2027 Benefits Open Enrollment website](#) for faculty and staff is available to access valuable information about this year's benefit plans, and highlights important, need to know changes and information regarding benefit costs and options for the coming year.
- Please view the UCR Faculty and Staff Pre-Recorded Open Enrollment presentation ([Download](#) | [Watch Video](#)) to review our highlights on the new medical plans, plan design changes, and enhancements and benefits premiums.
- **Links to Additional Resources:**
 - [Which medical plan is right for you?](#)
 - [UCnet 2027 Benefits Open Enrollment website](#)
 - [How to enroll in Benefits via the UCPATH Portal - OE](#)

Support & Contact Information

- **Virtual Counselor:** Use [ALEX — your virtual benefits guide](#) to get confidential, tailored benefit recommendations based on your health usage.
- **Central Human Resources Benefits Office:** Contact UCR Benefits by email at benefits@ucr.edu or call 951-827-2636 / 951-827-5086.
- [UCR HR Benefits OE Website](#) | [UCNet OE Website](#) | [UCPATH Login](#)