OVERVIEW
Kent State University strives to provide a program of competitive, high-quality benefits that support the health and wellness needs of our diverse workforce. These include comprehensive health and welfare insurance plans, a generous pension plan, and optional retirement savings opportunities.

Please review each of the sections below to learn about your benefit plans. You may also visit the University Benefits website at http://www.kent.edu/hr/benefits/insurance-benefits for more complete and detailed information.

MEDICAL PLANS
The university offers a comprehensive selection of PPO medical plans. A Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) gives you freedom of choice and greater flexibility. You may change your primary care physician at any time and you do not need a referral to see a specialist. By using in-network providers and facilities, you receive a higher level of benefit from the services.

Employees have a choice of two providers, Medical Mutual of Ohio and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield with three plan options from each provider, as listed below.

1. **PPO 90/70 plan**
   The 90/70 PPO plan has a $250 individual calendar year deductible and a $500 family deductible. In this plan, in-network inpatient, outpatient, and diagnostic services are covered at 90% after the deductible is satisfied. Out-of-network coverage for these services is covered at 70% after the deductible has been satisfied.

2. **PPO 80/60**
   The PPO 80/60 plan has a $350 individual calendar year deductible and a $700 family calendar year deductible. In this plan, in-network inpatient, outpatient, and diagnostic services are covered at 80% after the deductible is satisfied. Out-of-network coverage for these services is covered at 60% after the deductible has been satisfied.

3. **High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)**
   An HDHP is a health insurance plan that has a higher deductible. The HDHP plan has a $2,600 individual calendar year deductible and a $5,200 calendar year family deductible. While the deductible is higher for this type of plan, the employee contributions (the regular amount you pay each pay period for the coverage) is typically lower than a traditional health plan. High deductible plans do not begin to pay the cost of medical expenses until after you have met the deductible.

Preventive services are covered at 100% with an in-network provider. This means that when you receive services such as annual physicals, immunizations, mammograms, colonoscopies, and well-child care, you are not charged a copayment, coinsurance or deductible. For more information on the HDHP and HSA plans, please visit the website at http://www.kent.edu/hr/benefits/medical-insurance.

One significant benefit of enrolling in the HDHP Plan is the opportunity to offset your deductible with a Health Savings Account.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT (HSA)
An HSA is a tax-advantaged medical savings account you can contribute to, on a pre-tax basis to and draw money from for certain medical expenses. HSA’s can be used for out-of-pocket medical, dental, and vision coverage that are not covered by your insurance. HSA’s cannot be used to pay health insurance premiums. In order to enroll in an HSA:

- You have to be covered by a qualifying High Deductible Health Plan
- You must not have another medical coverage
• You cannot be enrolled in Medicare
• You cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else’s tax return
• You cannot be enrolled in a Health Care FSA or a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)
• Must be age 18 or older


**PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE**

Prescription drug coverage for all health care plans is provided through CVS/Caremark Inc. Coverage is available through retail pharmacies as well as a mail service option. Prescription co-payments for the 90/70, 80/60 plan and HDHP (after your deductible is met) are:

- 10% for generic medications with a maximum of $60
- 20% for brand-name medications with a maximum of $60
- 40% for a brand medication when a generic medication is available for a maximum of $100.

If a brand name medication is purchased and there is a generic medication available, the $100 maximum will be reduced to $60 if the prescribing physician indicates, “dispense as written” (DAW). Mail order is required after one original fill and two retail refills for all maintenance medications and may be picked up at any CVS/Caremark pharmacy. The CVS/Caremark mail order form can be accessed from the HR Forms Library at [http://www.kent.edu/hr/forms-library](http://www.kent.edu/hr/forms-library). Please visit the website at [http://www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com) or call 1-888-202-1654 for additional information.

**VISION COVERAGE**

The vision plan is administered through EyeMed. Employees and their dependents that are enrolled in a university medical health plan automatically receive this benefit. The vision plan provides access to a large group of independent practitioners and optical retail providers, including: Lens Crafters, Pearle Vision, Sears Optical and Target. Benefits are provided for vision exams, frames and lenses, and contact lenses. Each covered member may select eyeglasses or contact lenses for their benefit period. There are maximum benefit levels, which are renewed annually on a calendar-year basis. Once the in-network benefit has been exhausted, employees can receive an additional 40% discount on the remaining balance or a 15% discount on contact lenses. A summary of the vision plan can be accessed from the HR Forms Library at: [http://www.kent.edu/hr/forms-library](http://www.kent.edu/hr/forms-library). Please visit the EyeMed Vision website at [www.eyemedvisioncare.com](http://www.eyemedvisioncare.com) or 866-939-9252.

**VOLUNTARY LONG-TERM CARE**

Kent State has collaborated with Legacy Services, an independent broker that specializes in long-term care and represents multiple brand name carriers. Legacy Services participates in the state of Ohio’s Long-Term Care Partnership Program, which provides “dollar-for-dollar” asset protection. Each dollar that your policy pays out in benefits entitles you to keep a dollar of your assets if you ever need to apply for Medicaid services. Long-Term Care Insurance (LTCi) pays for home-health care, assisted living and nursing home care to help people with the functions of day-to-day living like bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring and eating. Additionally, services related to rehabilitation, chronic illness and cognitive impairment are covered.

Employees can receive a free phone consultation with agents who specialize in LTCi. For more information, contact Legacy directly at 1-800-230-3398, x700 or [http://www.legacyltci.com](http://www.legacyltci.com).
RETIREMENT PLANS

STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS OF OHIO (STRS/OPERS)
Eligible employees may enroll in either the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) for faculty or the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) for all other staff. As a new hire employee, you have 120 days from, and including, the effective date of your eligible appointment to make your selection. If you choose STRS or OPERS, you will have an additional 60 days (180 days total), from and including, the effective date of your eligible appointment day to select one of three retirement plans offered by STRS and OPERS. OPERS offers the Traditional Pension Plan, the Member-Directed Plan and the Combined Plan. STRS members may choose the Defined Benefit Plan, the Defined Contribution Plan or the Combined Plan.

Retirement eligibility under each system varies. The OPERS Traditional Plan and the STRS Defined Benefit Plan include a disability retirement option for qualifying employees. Employees of Ohio public colleges and universities do not participate in the federal Social Security system, other than contributions to Medicare. If you are eligible for a Social Security benefit from another employment in addition to your OPERS benefit, there may be a reduction in your Social Security benefit. Learn more about the Windfall Elimination Provision at https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10045.pdf.

Employees who have service credit in other public institutions may be eligible to purchase that service for credit in the Ohio retirement systems. Please contact OPERS or STRS concerning the criteria for purchasing service credit or more information regarding your personal retirement account.

Classified/Unclassified Employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retirement Plan</th>
<th>Employee Contribution</th>
<th>Employer Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPERS Traditional</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPERS Member-Directed</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>14.0% (13.0% to plan, 1.0% to mitigating rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPERS Combined</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>14.0% (13.0% to plan, 1.0% to mitigating rate)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty Employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retirement Plan</th>
<th>Employee Contribution</th>
<th>Employer Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRS Defined Benefit (DB)</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRS Defined Contribution (DC)</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>14.0% (9.5% plan, 4.5% mitigating rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRS Combined</td>
<td>14.0% (12% DC, 2% DB)</td>
<td>14.0% (9.5% plan, 4.5% mitigating rate)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on your retirement account, please contact OPERS at 800-222-7377 or http://www.opers.org, and/or STRS at 888-227-7877 or http://www.strsoh.org.

ADDITIONAL DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

APPROVED TAX-SHELTERED ANNUITIES - (§403(b))
As an employee of an educational institution, you have the option of participating in a Tax-Sheltered Annuity (TSA) program as authorized by § 403(b) of the IRC. The University does not contribute to this program. Employees may contribute to pre-tax or post-tax annuities through payroll deductions providing an opportunity to invest in a fixed annuity, a variable annuity, a combination of both or in mutual funds. A list of annuity companies authorized for payroll deduction and the Salary Reduction Agreement form are available from the Benefits Office or online in the HR Forms Library at http://www.kent.edu/hr/benefits/benefits-forms.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN – (§457 Plan)
The University has adopted a deferred compensation plan as authorized by Section 457(b) of the IRC. This plan is available in addition to the 403(b) plan, with contribution maximums for each plan. Through these programs, you can shelter a portion of your compensation from federal and state income taxes to purchase supplemental retirement benefits. This amount, with accumulated interest and dividends, is not subject to federal or state income taxes until it is withdrawn (usually at retirement). There are restrictions and/or penalties on early withdrawals.

To enroll in a 457 plan employees must complete a payroll Salary Reduction Agreement form and contact an authorized provider. A complete list of authorized providers for payroll deduction and the Salary Reduction Agreement form are available in the HR Forms Library at: http://www.kent.edu/hr/benefits/benefits-forms. To enroll in the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan, employees must contact them directly at http://www.ohio457.org or 1-877-644-6457.

**ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS**

**COBRA**
COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a “qualifying event.” After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a “qualified beneficiary.” You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

**MEDICARE**
Employees hired after April 1986 are required to pay a Medicare tax of 1.45%.

**VACATION AND SICK LEAVE**

**Unclassified Employees**
A part-time Administrator earns sick leave each month based upon the percentage of full-time hours assigned to the position. No vacation hours accrue for part-time unclassified positions.

**Faculty**
A part-time Faculty member earns 10 hours of sick leave each month based upon the percentage of full-time hours assigned to the position. No vacation hours accrue for part-time faculty positions.

**Classified Employees**
A part-time classified employee accrues sick leave and vacation hours based upon the number of hours worked every two weeks of employment. Vacation time may be used after completing a probationary period (4 months) or, for collective bargaining employees, vacation may be used after six months of service.

Employees who earn vacation hours may not accrue more than the equivalent of three years of vacation time. Vacation and sick leave accruals may be accessed any time via Flashline.

**TUITION WAIVER**
Part-time classified or unclassified employees who have worked a minimum of 1,250 hours within the previous 12 months before the start of the semester are eligible for a tuition waiver of up to four credit hours per semester for the employee only.

Part time faculty are eligible for a tuition waiver of up to four credit hours each full semester that they teach. This benefit is for the faculty member only and must be used in the semester the faculty member is teaching or the semester immediately following.

Application for this benefit is through your FlashLine account.
COLLEGE ADVANTAGE OHIO 529 SAVINGS PLAN

Savings for college is an investment for a lifetime. Ohio 529 college savings plan is offered and administered by Ohio Tuition Trust Authority, a state agency. The plan provides you a tax-free way to save for college. Funds can be used at any college throughout the country for tuition, room and board or books. To learn more about College Advantage or to enroll visit https://www.collegeadvantage.com.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

The employee wellness program, Kent State of Wellness, provides services and resources to support you physically, mentally and emotionally. Our partners include IMPACT Solutions, Be Well Solutions, University Health Services, College of Health and Human Services, and so many more. You will find a comprehensive calendar of offerings, incentives and wellness challenges as well as wellness articles and news by visiting http://www.kent.edu/hr/benefits/wellness.

IMPACT- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and Work/Life Program

IMPACT offers an array of counseling services, including individual, family and couple counseling by licensed professionals at convenient locations and times for all eight Kent State campus communities, as well as for those employees and dependents located outside of the eight-campus regions. The IMPACT Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers confidential support for you and your household members, as well as dependents living away from home.

Professional phone support is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Face-to-face counseling is also available, with up to six sessions included per problem occurrence. Additional features include:
- A web-based portal with articles, resources, and interactive features
- Legal, financial, and identity theft assistance
- Child and elder-care assistance
- Referrals to community resources

You may contact IMPACT at 1-800-227-6007 or at www.myimpactsolution.com. Account login: kent

DIRECT DEPOSIT

An employee may apply for direct deposit to a checking and/or savings account. You can sign up for direct deposit through your Flashline account. Direct deposit forms are available in the HR Forms Library at http://www.kent.edu/payroll/direct-deposit.

EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS

Kent State employees are offered discounts from various businesses. A few examples are moving services, cell phone services, airport parking and much more. For a complete and up-to-date listing of employee discounts, visit the University Benefits web page at http://www.kent.edu/hr/benefits/employee-discounts and the Business and Finance web page at http://www.kent.edu/hr/additional-employee-discounts.

DISCLAIMER: This Benefits in Brief is provided as an informational summary only and is not intended to be a summary plan description (SPD), policy or plan document. If there are differences between this document and the SPD, policy or plan document, the terms of the SPD, policy, or plan document shall be definitive.

Kent State University may amend or terminate its benefits plans at any time in accordance with the law and applicable collective bargaining agreements. The description of the program, the plan itself, or participation in the plan is not an employment contract or any type of employment guarantee and should not be construed as such. The university makes no endorsements, warranties, representations and/or guarantees regarding the performance, use, interpretation, application, correctness, accuracy of any of the vendors’ plans and programs summarized in this document. Individuals should consult with the vendor(s) as well as their
personal, legal, medical, insurance, and/or financial, etc. advisor/professional as it applies to their own circumstance to answer any questions and/or concerns related to their participation in the plan(s) and program(s).

**KENT STATE BENEFITS and WELLNESS DEPARTMENT**

Information on any of the above benefits and programs is available in the Benefits Office unless otherwise indicated. The following members of the Benefits Office are available to assist with specific questions:

Loretta B. Shields (330-672-8314) - ([lishields@kent.edu](mailto:lishields@kent.edu)) Executive Director of Benefits & Wellness
Kimberly Hauge (330-672-7505) – (khauge@kent.edu) Director, University Wellness
Sheba Marshall (330-672-8348) – (smarsh22@kent.edu) Assistant Manager, University Benefits
Sandra Cole (330-672-7501) – (smarsh22@kent.edu) Special Assistant
Diane Crawford (330-672-7533) – (dcrawfo1@kent.edu) Administrative Clerk
Dina Dusek (330-672-2726) – (ddusek@kent.edu) Benefits Services Representative
Samantha Heald-Sott (330-672-5861) - (shealdso@kent.edu) Coordinator, University Benefits
Laura Kenney (330-672-8368) - ([lkenney2@kent.edu](mailto:lkenney2@kent.edu)) Coordinator, Leave and Disability Benefits Program
Mary LaLonde, (330-672-8332) – (mlalonde@kent.edu) Benefits Services Representative
Marianne Pickering, (330-672-8317) - (mpickeri@kent.edu) Coordinator, University Benefits

Please feel free to contact the Benefits Office at 330-672-3107. The Benefits office is located in Heer Hall - Kent Campus. Additional benefits information and benefit claim forms are available online at [http://www.kent.edu/hr/benefits](http://www.kent.edu/hr/benefits) or e-mail: [benefits@kent.edu](mailto:benefits@kent.edu)