Comprehensive Benefits Summary for Staff and Administrators

Employee/Employer Matching Contributions - The University’s 403b retirement plan is one of the best offered by small private universities. Contributions are invested with TIAA-CREF (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and the College Retirement Equities Fund) www.tiaa-cref.org/tcm/plu/. There is a one-year waiting period before new employees may participate in the retirement plan (unless they have participated in a qualified retirement plan within the past year).

Once an employee is eligible, the University will contribute 7.5% of the employee’s salary to his or her retirement account. The employee’s elective deferrals of up to 6% of pay will be matched by the University in an amount equal to 50% of the amount the employee elects to defer, with a maximum University matching contribution equal to 3% of pay. See chart for PLU contribution calculation.

**Employee Voluntary Non-matched Contributions** - This account provides employees with an opportunity to accumulate additional tax-deferred retirement savings on a voluntary basis. No waiting period is required. IRS restrictions do apply in calculating the maximum amount that may be tax-deferred. Contributions are invested with TIAA-CREF.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee’s Contribution</th>
<th>PLU’s Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>7.5% + .5% = 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7.5% + 1% = 8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7.5% + 1.5% = 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7.5% + 2% = 9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7.5% + 2.5% = 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7.5% + 3% = 10.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Medical & Vision**

The University contributes 95% of the premium for the base plan (Group Health Access PPO) towards the medical plan you select. This year’s PLU monthly contribution is $539.43. For those who elect “employee-only-coverage” on the Group Health Essentials Plan, PLU contributes $417.42 per month towards premium and $65 per month towards a Flexible Spending Account (FSA). The employee portion of the premium is deducted monthly from your pay on a pre-tax basis. Coverage for eligible dependents is available at the participant’s expense. To provide a less costly option for employees with children, PLU will contribute more for dependent children’s coverage on the Group Health Essentials Plan.

You may choose between two medical plan alternatives that give a variety of care options including HMO and community providers:

- **Group Health Access PPO**
- **Group Health Essentials**

Monthly insurance rates will change with premiums collected for June 2015 and generally each June thereafter. The University’s annual contribution per enrolled employee is approximately $6,473.

**NOTE**: For new benefits-eligible employees, the effective date for medical insurance is the first of the month following 30 days of employment. Employees who have group medical insurance benefits from another source, whether through employment or otherwise, may not enroll on PLU’s plans. (Example: individuals eligible for coverage under a spouse’s plan elsewhere will need to decide if they want to enroll on that plan or on the PLU plan, but can’t enroll on both).

**Dental**

The University contributes 95% of the premium for the base dental plan (Willamette Dental) towards the dental plan you select. This year’s PLU monthly contribution is $41.56. The employee portion of the premium is deducted monthly from your pay on a pre-tax basis. Dependent coverage is available at the participant’s expense. You may enroll in a dental plan even if you do not enroll in a medical plan, and vice versa. The annual value of the University’s contribution towards the dental benefit is $499 per enrolled employee.
You may choose between two dental plan options:

- Delta Dental of Washington
- Willamette Dental of WA, Inc.

**NOTE:** For new benefits-eligible employees, the effective date for dental insurance is the first of the month following 30 days of employment. Employees who are eligible for group dental insurance benefits from another source, whether through employment or otherwise, may not enroll on PLU’s plans. (Example: individuals eligible for coverage under a spouse’s plan elsewhere will need to decide if they want to enroll on that plan or on the PLU plan, but can’t enroll on both).

**Domestic Partner**

The University provides benefits to eligible same sex and opposite sex domestic partners of “with benefits” employees on the same basis that benefits are extended to spouses. A signed affidavit is required. See the Domestic Partner Policy and Guidelines on the HR website for more information.

**Emergency Shared Leave**

This program was designed to provide limited financial assistance in prolonged, life-threatening and catastrophic medical situations, by allowing eligible employees to voluntarily share a portion of their accrued leave time to help fund the medical leave of an authorized recipient. In an extreme situation in which an eligible administrator or staff member has depleted his/her accumulated leave, President’s Council may authorize Human Resources to create a leave bank to which other eligible employees may donate a portion of their accrued vacation or sick time to assist the person on medical leave. One year of service, and certain other requirements must be met in order to apply for emergency shared leave and to donate to someone’s established leave bank.

**Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**

The professional counselors at First Choice EAP provide a free problem assessment and referral service where you and your immediate family members can go for help in solving a variety of emotional, behavioral, family, relationship, financial, elder care, and mental health or chemical dependency concerns. Complete confidentiality is assured. The annual cost to the University of providing employees with this benefit is approximately $15,169 in total fees. [www.FirstChoiceEAP.com](http://www.FirstChoiceEAP.com)

**Holidays**

The number of University-observed holidays varies slightly each year. During fiscal year 2015-2016, there will be 14.5 paid holidays. To figure the value of these 14.5 paid holidays, multiply your monthly salary by .64 if you work full time.

**Summer Flex** — In addition to the official holidays observed by PLU, the University provides full-time administrators and staff with 40 hours (5 days) of paid time off during the summer months. This benefit is prorated for “with benefits” part-time employees working between .5 FTE and .99 FTE.

During 2015 this summer schedule benefit will be available from the week of June 1st through the week of August 14th. It is up to each office to develop and follow the work schedule that provides the best service to the PLU community, and meets the individual preferences of each employee to the greatest extent possible. Time not taken by Friday, August 14th is lost and may not be carried forward beyond that date.

**Life Insurance/AD&D**

The basic term life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment program are carried by Principal Financial Group insurance company. The face value of both basic policies provided by the University is one times your annual salary. Employees age 65+ receive lower coverage. Annual cost to PLU is approximately $106 for each employee insured. For new benefits-eligible employees, the effective date for life insurance is the first of the month following 30 days of employment.

In addition to the basic term life coverage provided by the University, you are eligible to purchase voluntary term life insurance for yourself, your spouse and/or children through Principal Financial Group insurance company at reasonable group rates.

**Long-term Disability Insurance**

After one year of employment, the University pays the premium of your long-term disability (LTD) insurance through Principal Financial Group insurance company at a typical annual per person cost of approximately $160. The one-year waiting period may be waived for new employees who have had prior group LTD coverage with no lapse in coverage and documentation of prior policy. In the event of long-term total or partial disability, the plan pays 60% of covered monthly salary to a maximum benefit of $5,000 per month. Any deductible sources of income are subtracted from this payment. Benefits commence on the first of the month following 90 days of documented total or partial disability. In addition, the plan will make a monthly premium contribution to your retirement plan.
• **Medical Leave**
Any employee who has completed at least one year of employment with PLU may request a Family/Medical Leave of Absence (which may be paid or unpaid) for up to twelve weeks. Eligibility for these medical leaves, and their terms and conditions are explained in the Family and Medical Leaves of Absence Policy.

• **Reimbursement Accounts**
Employees may elect to participate in a Section 125 Flexible Spending Account (FSA). Expenditures for dependent care costs and some health care expenses not covered by insurance may be withheld from pay on a pre-tax basis. Employees save Social Security Tax in addition to federal income tax. Elections are made during open enrollment for the fiscal year and may not be changed unless there is an IRS-defined qualifying event. Employees who elect the Essentials Plan and who do not enroll dependents will receive a monthly contribution of $65.00 towards a health care reimbursement account.

The Good Fit Benefit Book website outlines the eligible expenses. The annual cost to the University for providing program administration is approximately $9,500 in total fees. [www.afadvantage.com](http://www.afadvantage.com)

• **Sick Leave**
Full-time employees earn 8 hours of paid sick leave per month worked, up to a maximum of 100 days equivalent to 800 hours. This benefit is prorated for those working between .5 FTE and .99 FTE. Paid sick leave accumulations provide for short-term salary coverage in the event of sickness or disability. The value of this benefit can be conservatively calculated by multiplying .55 times your monthly salary. Administrators (exempt) accrue sick leave hours starting the first day of employment, while staff (nonexempt) begin accumulating after the completion of their 90 days. Exempt and nonexempt employees may take accrued sick leave following satisfactory completion of their introductory period.

• **Social Security and Medicare Benefit Program**
The University matches your contribution each year with a contribution into your Social Security retirement account and Medicare program. A rough computation of the cost of these contributions for the calendar year 2015 can be made by multiplying 6.2% times your annual salary up to a limit of $118,500 in earnings for Social Security, and 1.45% times your annual salary for Medicare with no limit.

• **Transportation Incentives**
The University encourages employees to care for the environment and reduce traffic congestion by using alternative transportation to get to work. PLU and Commute Smart encourages the use of alternative transportation methods by offering an annual ORCA transit pass (a small portion of which is paid by the employee), preferential parking for carpoolers, and an Emergency Ride Home program, among other benefits. [www.plu.edu/commute](http://www.plu.edu/commute)

• **Travel Insurance**
Employees are covered for up to $150,000 in accidental death and dismemberment insurance when traveling on University business. In addition there is a 24-hour Travel Insurance Program that provides on-call professionals to assist employees with medical and travel emergencies, when they are 100 miles or more from home/campus on pre-approved travel related to the business and curriculum of the university.

• **Tuition Exchange and Tuition Remission**
The University has a strong commitment to life-long learning which it supports through the following tuition assistance programs and by offering a number of additional on- and off-campus professional development programs. There are changes to tuition benefits for 2015-2016, refer to Tuition Benefits Policy.

  **Tuition Exchange** - The University participates in two programs which offer tuition exchange benefits for qualified dependent children of eligible University employees. Both programs have specific application deadlines, eligibility requirements, and both programs are competitive and not guaranteed.

  - The Tuition Exchange, Inc., an association of over 600 institutions all across the United States providing varying levels of tuition discounts. This benefit is available to full-time employees who have completed three years of service, and is based upon additional University criterion. Only a limited number of dependents typically receive the benefit each year. [www.tuitionexchange.org](http://www.tuitionexchange.org)
  
  - The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Tuition Plan Program includes 24 colleges and universities related to the ELCA. These institutions provide tuition remission to qualified PLU dependents. This benefit is available to both full-time and part-time employees who have completed three years of service.
Tuition Remission - The waiting period for tuition remission benefits for PLU courses is the beginning of the school term following completion of one year of service. Once this waiting period has been completed, an eligible employee and/or eligible dependents may apply for tuition remission. Dependent eligibility is defined as a legal spouse, domestic partner (affidavit required), or a child who is under the age of 25, is unmarried, and is claimed as a dependent on the employee’s IRS form 1040. The tuition remission benefit available at PLU is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee Length of Service</th>
<th>Employee</th>
<th>Eligible Dependent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 year</td>
<td>-0-</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 1 full year, and up to 2 full years</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 2 full years, and up to 3 full years</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 3 full years of service or tenured or tenure-track faculty</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employees working at least half time (.5 FTE) but less than full-time (1.0 FTE) may multiply their full-time equivalence (FTE) by .50, .75 or .90, depending on their length of service, to determine the percentage of remission. Tuition remission is also prorated for eligible spouses, domestic partners, and dependent children. Graduate tuition remission is available to eligible employees, spouses, and domestic partners and will be taxable income to the employee and will most likely increase taxes withheld and decrease net pay.

• Vacation

PLU offers very generous time-off programs, including vacations and holidays. Staff (nonexempt) and administrators (exempt) begin accumulating vacation time on the first day of work, and may take accrued vacation following satisfactory completion of their introductory period. The amount of vacation time earned is based on number of hours worked, length of service, and whether one is staff or an administrator. An amount equal to the amount of accumulated but unused vacation leave, up to a maximum of 80 hours of accumulated vacation, will be paid upon an employee’s separation of employment.

- Staff employees in nonexempt positions - Full-time staff accumulate vacation at the following rates (prorated for less than full-time):
- Administrative employees in exempt positions - Full-time administrators accrue vacation at the rate of 14.67 hours per month, equivalent to 22 days per year (prorated for less than full-time). The maximum vacation accrual is 200 hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completed Full Years of Employment</th>
<th>Typical Vacation Days per 12-Month Period</th>
<th>Typical Monthly Accrual Rate</th>
<th>Maximum Vacation Accrual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Hire to 4th anniversary</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.67 hours</td>
<td>90 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During 5th year to 9th anniversary</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
<td>135 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During 10th year and beyond</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13.33 hours</td>
<td>180 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Workers Compensation

The University pays between 68% to 71% of the premium for your state industrial insurance which covers you in the event of on the job injury or work-related illness. At current rates the University will contribute between $362 to $423 for the calendar year 2015 for each full-time salaried employee.

• Miscellaneous

No attempt has been made to calculate the value of the University's payment for unemployment compensation, bereavement leave, emergency death benefits, free parking, or the value an individual might receive from the use of a University identification card to obtain free or discounted admission to the various facilities, productions and events.

NOTE: The above descriptions provide only a summary of benefits. To obtain a more thorough explanation of these benefits, please refer to the Good Fit Benefit Book website, the Personnel Manual, and to Summary Plan Descriptions. Pacific Lutheran University reserves the right to amend or revise any and all benefits in order to comply with regulatory changes and/or to meet the University's objectives. In the event of any question, the plan document will prevail.  

www.plu.edu/human-resources/Benefits/home.php

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