

Long Term Disability Insurance

Group Insurance for School Employees

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CLERICAL/TECHNICAL

**Underwritten by
Connecticut General Life Insurance Company**



MESSA

www.messa.org

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East Lansing, MI 48826-2560
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The Connecticut General benefits for which you are insured are set forth in the pages of this booklet. Consult these pages for a further description of the terms and conditions of this coverage. Application must be made and signed by the individual before any coverage can become effective. If your plan requires contributions from you, the coverage will not become effective unless you are making the required contributions.

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SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

To be attached to and made part of your Booklet

For Members of

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

PLAN EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2005

MEMBERS INCLUDED: CLERICAL/TECHNICAL

DATE OF ELIGIBILITY: You will be eligible on the Plan Effective Date, the date of your employment, or the day following completion of the eligibility waiting period as determined by your Employer, whichever is later.

LONG TERM DISABILITY

Maximum Monthly Benefit: 66 2/3% of monthly earnings subject to a maximum benefit of \$2,500.

Qualifying Period - Benefits begin:

- (a) upon the exhaustion of accumulated sick days, or upon expiration of 90 calendar days of disability accumulated in any twelve (12) consecutive months, whichever is later, or,
- (b) upon expiration of three (3) consecutive days of disability occurring during a school year in which the Qualifying Period was previously satisfied.

NOTE: The last three (3) sick days or days of disability under (a) above must be consecutive and due to the same or related cause.

Regular Occupation Total

Disability Period: 2 years

Maximum Period of Payment:

- (a) for disability commencing prior to age 60 - up to age 65,
- (b) for disability commencing at or after age 60 and prior to age 66 - up to 5 years,
- (c) for disability commencing at or after age 66 - up to the following periods:

<u>Disabled at Age</u>	<u>Duration of Benefits</u>
66	4 years
67	3 years
68	2 years
69 or later	1 year

Social Security Benefits Integrated with Monthly Benefits:

Primary and Family Benefits

Minimum Monthly Benefit: Five percent (5%) of your Maximum Monthly Benefit before reduction of Income From Other Sources or \$50, whichever is greater (for disabilities commencing on or after July 1, 1986).

Freeze on Offsets: Future monthly LTD benefits will not be reduced because of automatic, statutory or general cost of living increases in income amounts used as monthly benefit offsets. If any such income amounts are initially estimated, these amounts will be adjusted to reflect the final determination.

Cost of Living Adjustment:	Included
Educational Supplement Program:	Included
Limited Benefits for Disability due to Mental Disease or Illness:	Same as any other illness
Limited Benefits for Disability due to Alcoholism or Drug Abuse:	Same as any other illness
Benefits for Disabilities due to Pregnancy:	Included
Rehabilitation Benefits:	Included

Waiver of MESSA Health Care Plan Contributions During Total Disability: up to 24 months for any one period of disability commencing on or after July 1, 1986.

Monthly earnings shall mean one-twelfth (1/12) of your annual rate of compensation not including bonuses, commissions or any other special compensation.

WHEN YOUR INSURANCE BEGINS

BECOMING ELIGIBLE

You will be eligible for insurance as determined in accordance with the paragraph entitled Date of Eligibility in the Schedule of Benefits.

BECOMING INSURED

If you are not required to contribute toward the cost of your insurance, you will become insured on the day you become eligible.

If you are required to pay any portion of the cost of your insurance, you will become insured on the latest of:

- (a) the day you become eligible, if you enroll for your insurance on or before the day you become eligible,
- (b) the day you enroll for your insurance, if you enroll on or before the thirty-first (31st) day following the day you become eligible,
- (c) the day your evidence of insurability (at your expense) is approved by Connecticut General, if you enroll for your insurance more than thirty-one (31) days following the day you become eligible.

You must be actively at work on the day that your insurance is to become effective. If you are absent from work because of bodily injury or sickness on that day, you will become insured on the day you return to active work. To be considered actively at work for insurance purposes, you must be physically able to perform your normal duties for a regularly scheduled workday at the time you report to work.

LONG TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS

LOSS OF TIME BENEFITS

If you become totally disabled by an accidental injury or sickness while insured and remain continuously so disabled beyond the Qualifying Period shown in the Schedule of Benefits, monthly benefits will be paid to you. However, if a total disability commences while you are on an approved leave of absence without pay, the Qualifying Period shall not begin to accumulate until the date you are scheduled to return to active school employment.

HOW MUCH

The Monthly Benefit while you are totally disabled shall be the Maximum Monthly Benefit shown in the Schedule of Benefits based on your monthly earnings at the time disability commences, less any benefits you are eligible to receive for that month as income from other sources as described below.

INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES

Your Maximum Monthly Benefit will be reduced by the amount of the following other income benefits:

- (a) any earnings, including salary, wages, commissions or similar pay, you receive or are entitled to receive from work including earnings from your employer, any other employer or self-employment,
- (b) the amount of any disability or retirement benefits you receive from your employer's retirement or pension plan, including the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement Fund,
- (c) any amount you receive or are eligible to receive from Social Security or Railroad Retirement (integrated as shown in the Schedule of Benefits) by reason of your disability or retirement,
- (d) any amount you receive or are eligible to receive as a periodic benefit for disability under
 - (i) any employer's, labor-management trustee, or union employee benefit plan, or
 - (ii) any governmental (not military) agency or program or coverage required or provided by law; i.e., Workers' Compensation.

NOTE: Until you submit proof satisfactory to Connecticut General that you are not entitled to the disability benefits provided above, Connecticut General will assume that you are entitled to the maximum amount of such periodic benefit, including dependent benefits, applicable to the class of persons of which you are a member.

MINIMUM MONTHLY BENEFIT

Your Monthly Benefit will not, in any case, be less than five percent (5%) of your Maximum Monthly Benefit before reduction of Income From Other Sources or \$50, whichever is greater.

Example:	\$2,000.00	Monthly Earnings
	<u>x 66 2/3</u>	Monthly Benefit Percentage for this example
	1,334.00	Maximum Monthly Benefit
	<u>-1,300.00</u>	Income From Other Sources
	34.00	Monthly Benefit after total offsets
	\$66.70	The amount equal to 5% of your Maximum Monthly Benefit

The Minimum Monthly Benefit Provision will increase the \$34.00 to the greater of \$50.00 or 5% of the Maximum Monthly Benefit, or in this example, \$66.70.

SINGLE SUM PAYMENTS UNDER OTHER PLANS

If a single sum payment is made as a commutation of, or substitute for, any periodic benefits or payments referred to under "Income From Other Sources," such payment shall be deemed to have been made in the amounts and for the period which would have been applicable in the absence of such single sum payment.

DEFINITION OF TOTAL DISABILITY

You will be considered "totally disabled" if you are wholly and continuously unable to perform any and every duty pertaining to your regular occupation during the Qualifying Period and the Regular Occupation Total Disability Period shown in the Schedule of Benefits. After benefits have been paid for the Regular Occupation Total Disability Period of any continuous disability you will be considered "totally disabled" for the balance of the period of disability if you are unable to engage in any occupation or perform work for compensation or profit for which you are, or may become, reasonably fitted by training, education or experience.

You are not totally disabled during any period in which you are not under the regular care and attendance of a physician.

DEFINITION OF QUALIFYING PERIOD

The term "Qualifying Period" means the period of days of total disability, shown in the Schedule of Benefits, for which no Monthly Benefit is payable.

WHEN DO BENEFITS BEGIN AND END

Monthly Benefits will accrue from the first day after the Qualifying Period and will be payable while you continue to be so totally disabled, if due proof of the disability is given to Connecticut General. However, benefits will not be payable beyond the Maximum Period of Payment shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

SUCCESSIVE PERIODS OF DISABILITY

Successive periods of disability beginning while you are insured will be treated as one period of disability unless they are:

1. due to different and unrelated causes and separated by return to active school employment for at least one day, or
2. due to the same or related causes and separated by more than six (6) months of continuous active school employment.

WHEN INSURANCE TERMINATES

Your insurance terminates on the earliest of the following dates:

1. the date you leave school employment,
2. the date you are no longer a member of a class eligible for this insurance, or
3. the date the Group Policy terminates.

In addition, your insurance terminates on the date you cease performing all the usual duties of your job, except that your coverage may be extended while:

1. you are unable to work because you are sick or injured,
2. you are on a leave of absence with pay, for a period not to exceed one year, or
3. you are on a leave of absence without pay, for a period not to exceed one year, provided there is a signed contract or other written agreement stating the date you will be returning to active work.

In no event may any insurance provided on a contributory basis be continued beyond the end of the period for which the Member has made the premium contribution required.

Any claim established prior to the date your insurance terminates will not be affected by such termination.

NOT COVERED

No benefits are payable for disability due to:

1. self-inflicted injuries if intentional or while insane,
2. war,
3. participation in, or in consequence of having participated in, the committing of a felony, or
4. cosmetic surgery unless (a) occasioned by accidental bodily injury sustained while insured or active illness contracted while insured, and (b) you have been continuously insured under this Group Long Term Disability program since such injury was sustained or such illness was contracted.

**WAIVER OF HEALTH PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS
DURING DISABILITY**

The monthly contributions for your MESSA health plan will be waived during any one period of disability under the following conditions:

1. The Waiver will begin when you become entitled to Monthly Benefits and will continue while you are totally disabled but not to exceed twenty-four (24) months.
2. The Waiver will apply to health plan contributions which become due while you are entitled to Monthly Benefits but not beyond the date that twenty-four (24) monthly contributions have been waived.
3. The Waiver will not apply during any part of this twenty-four (24) month period in which:
 - (a) your Employer, because of your disability, is required by contract or other agreement to make monthly contributions for your MESSA health plan, or
 - (b) you are eligible for benefits under the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System.
4. Health plan does not include the Hospital Confinement Indemnity plan.

NOTE: Until you submit proof satisfactory to Connecticut General that you are not entitled to the disability benefits provided above, Connecticut General will assume that you are entitled to the maximum amount of such periodic benefit, including dependent benefits, applicable to the class of persons of which you are a member.

MINIMUM MONTHLY BENEFIT

Your Monthly Benefit will not, in any case, be less than the Minimum Monthly Benefit as shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

The plan provides a cost of living adjustment of Long Term Disability payments on each anniversary of the commencement of benefit payments. This adjustment, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index as of each January 1 or other reliable index determined by Connecticut General to be more appropriate, was built into the plan in order to recognize changes in the cost of living. No one cost of living adjustment will increase the amount of your Monthly Benefit by more than three percent (3%) of the amount payable immediately prior to each anniversary of the commencement of benefit payments.

REHABILITATION BENEFITS

REHABILITATION SERVICES

If you become disabled as a result of injury or sickness, the Company may, at its sole discretion, provide rehabilitation services. The decision to provide these services will be based on an objective review of the medical condition causing your disability, your potential to return to work and the types of services needed to improve your quality of life as a disabled person. The Company will pay benefits up to the reasonable and customary charges for rehabilitation services furnished under this provision.

BENEFIT DURING REHABILITATIVE EMPLOYMENT

If you have received Long Term Disability Benefits for any one period of disability and you accept Rehabilitative Employment, you will receive a Monthly Benefit for an additional twenty-four (24) months during such Rehabilitative Employment. Your Monthly Benefit will be the Monthly Benefit otherwise payable less fifty percent (50%) of the amount of your earnings from Rehabilitative Employment.

“Rehabilitative Employment” means any occupation or employment for compensation or profit for which you are reasonably fitted by training, education or experience provided such Rehabilitative Employment is performed during a period in which you are unable to perform any and every duty pertaining to your regular occupation.

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM
SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

Monthly Educational Supplement Each Child	\$200
Maximum Monthly Benefit Each Family	\$600
Maximum Period of Payment Each Child	36 Months

WHEN BENEFITS BEGIN AND END

Benefits begin after you have been totally disabled for a period of one year. The Monthly Educational Supplement Benefit will be payable only for those months in which your child is actually in attendance at an eligible institution. Such child need not be attending an eligible institution at the time you become totally disabled. Benefits will end on the earlier of the following dates:

1. the date your insurance terminates,
2. the date you are no longer disabled,
3. the date your child is no longer an eligible child, or
4. the date you receive the thirty-sixth (36th) Monthly Educational Supplement Benefit for each child.

DEFINITIONS ELIGIBLE CHILD

The term "eligible child" shall mean your unmarried child (including any stepchild or adopted child) under age twenty-five (25) (but extended through the calendar year that such child attains age 25) who is a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible institution and who qualifies as a dependent for the calculation of Federal Income Tax.

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION

The term "eligible institution" shall be an institution granting four-year degrees or a two-year Junior or Community College which your child attends in preparation for a four-year degree.

CONNECTICUT GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
hereby certifies that, member of

**MICHIGAN EDUCATION
SPECIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION**
(Herein called the Policyholder)

who are insured under Group Policy Number 57222 issued by Connecticut General to the Policyholder are, subject to the terms and conditions of said policy, insured for the benefits described in the Benefits provision.

BENEFITS

Connecticut General benefits for which you are insured are set forth in the pages of this booklet. Consult these pages for a further description of the terms and conditions of these coverages. If there is any coverage for which you are eligible which does not become effective unless you make the required election and contributions therefor, such coverage will not become effective unless you so elect and are making such contributions.

This Certificate, which is furnished in accordance with, and subject to, the terms of the Group Policy, replaces any and all Certificates previously issued to you by Connecticut General under the Group Policy specified above covering the insurance described herein. This is not the contract of insurance. Each policy and the application of the Policyholder for it constitute the entire contract. This Certificate is merely evidence of insurance provided under the Group Policy. The insurance is effective only after the person concerned is eligible for insurance and becomes and remains insured in accordance with the terms, provisions and conditions of the Group Policy.

LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

Long Term Disability insurance benefits are payable pursuant to the following provisions:

TIME LIMIT ON CERTAIN DEFENSES

No statement relating to insurability made by any Member eligible for coverage under the policy shall be used to deny a claim or in contesting the validity of the insurance with respect to which such statement was made after the insurance has been in force prior to the contest for a period of three (3) years during the lifetime of the person with respect to whom any such statement was made.

NOTE: For the purpose of the following provisions, information submitted to MESSA shall be considered to have been furnished to Connecticut General as herein specified.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

Written notice of claim must be given to Connecticut General no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the Qualifying Period, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible. Notice given by or on behalf of you or the beneficiary to Connecticut General at its Home Office in Bloomfield, Connecticut or to any authorized agent of Connecticut General, with information sufficient to identify you, shall be deemed notice to Connecticut General.

CLAIM FORMS

Connecticut General, upon receipt of a written notice of claim, will furnish to the Member such forms as are usually furnished by it for filing proofs of loss. If such forms are not furnished within fifteen (15) days after the giving of such notice, the Member shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of the policy as to proof of loss upon submitting, within the time fixed in the policy for filing proofs of loss, written proof covering the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which claim is made.

PROOFS OF LOSS

Written proof of loss must be furnished to Connecticut General within ninety days after the termination of the first due monthly period of benefits following the expiration of the Qualifying Period. Subsequent written proof of the continuance of such disability must be furnished to Connecticut General at such intervals as it may reasonably require. Connecticut General shall require as part of proof of loss satisfactory evidence (1) of the amount of all benefits and payments referred to in the insurance plan, and (2) that you have made application for such benefits and payments and have furnished all required proofs therefor.

TIME OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Subject to the due written proof of loss, all accrued benefits for loss for which the policy provides periodic payment shall be paid to the Member monthly during the period for which benefits are payable thereunder, and any balance remaining unpaid at the termination of the period of liability will be paid immediately upon receipt of due written proof.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Connecticut General (at its own expense) shall have the right and opportunity to examine the person of any individual whose injury or sickness is the basis of claim when and as often as it may reasonably require during the pendency of a claim under the policy.

LEGAL ACTIONS

No action at law or in equity shall be brought to recover on the policy prior to the expiration of sixty (60) days after written proof of loss has been furnished in accordance with the requirements of the policy. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of 3 years after the time written proof of loss is required to be furnished.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO FILE A CLAIM

You should notify the MESSA Benefits office 30 days prior to the end of your Qualifying Period that you wish to file a Long Term Disability claim. MESSA will immediately send you the necessary claim form and detailed claim filing instructions.

HOW TO APPEAL A CLAIM DENIAL

If you do not agree with a claim denial, you may request that a review be made of your claim. You should submit a written request for a review of your claim within 60 days after receiving notice of denial. Your request should be addressed to the attention of the MESSA Benefits office.

You may submit additional information with your request for review. You may request and receive copies of pertinent documents, although in some cases authorization may be needed for the release of confidential information, such as medical records. You should submit the facts and any supporting comments in writing.

A decision will be made by Connecticut General within 60 days following MESSA's receipt of request for review or the date all information required of you is furnished, whichever date is later. Notification of the decision on review will be written in a manner calculated to be understood by you and will specify the reasons for the decision.

RIGHT OF RECOVERY

If an overpayment is made due to any reason, including but not limited to a payment under any Worker's Disability or Occupational Disease Act or Law, clerical error or misstatement of age, Connecticut General shall have the right to recover such overpayment from the insured person, or to deduct such amount of overpayment from future benefits.

If you incur expenses on account of bodily injury or sickness, caused by negligence or wrong of a third party and benefits are payable, under the Group Policy, you will receive the benefits, provided that, if there is recovery by you or a personal representative from the third party, or his or her personal representative whether by judgement settlement or otherwise, on account of such bodily injury or sickness, you shall reimburse Connecticut General to the extent of the total amount of such benefits paid under the Group Policy, but not to an amount in excess of the proceeds of any such recovery after the deduction of reasonable and necessary expenditures, including attorney's fees, incurred in effecting such recovery.

