



GSOC-UAW LOCAL 2110

MAKING A BETTER NYU SINCE 1998

The Union for Graduate Employees at New York University

Condemning Cancellation of the Continuation Option for Health Insurance

GSOC-UAW condemns the decision of NYU and the NYU Student Health Center to discontinue the “Continuation Option,” which previously extended health insurance coverage for 90 days after graduation. We additionally condemn the decision to do so late in the semester and without prior notice, forcing graduating students to forego health insurance coverage until employment or purchase third-party coverage at high costs. We demand reinstatement of the Continuation Option with immediate effect, and demand that the continuation period of 90 days begin as soon as the coverage period ends so that there is no break in coverage.

This wrongful change was also not formally or transparently announced to the student community; a December 2 email from Student Health Center about end of semester and winter break health services [linked to a page](#) that states “A ‘Continuation Option’ that formerly provided 90 days additional coverage is no longer available for purchase.” Student Health Insurance coverage will expire on January 8, nearly three weeks prior to the official NYU degree conferral date on January 27. The page, titled “Insurance Information for Graduating Students” then goes on to list unhelpful and unpragmatic options, especially given the short timeline, for obtaining health insurance coverage after January 8, including enrolling in a parent or spouse’s plan, waiting for employment, or enrolling in third-party coverage or Medicaid.

Graduate students as well as undergraduates who are finishing their studies this semester have been blindsided by this change. GSOC is aware of cases where students who are graduating in December had previously scheduled their employment start dates with the Continuation Option in mind, and now will have long lapses in coverage between January 8 and the start of their employment. These students, along with those who do not have employment already arranged after graduation, now face enormous risk and financial burden because of NYU’s decision.

As is far too often the case, this decision by the University will disproportionately affect working class and international students as well as students with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Beyond imposing a precarious economic situation, lapses in or absence of health insurance too often force individuals to make high-risk decisions to forego medical treatment or mental health care with severe and sometimes deadly consequences.

The Student Health Center, under the direction of Dr. Carlo Ciotoli, has now twice unilaterally and without honest explanation reduced the health insurance coverage of students and workers at NYU. In Fall 2018, NYU eliminated the Graduate Student Health Insurance Plan (GSHIP), which provided 100% health insurance coverage for doctoral students, citing a directive from the

New York State Department of Financial Services. The New York State Department of Financial Services, however, denied having ever communicated such a directive to NYU and stated that NYU took the decision alone. This change has resulted in doctoral students and workers in GSOC paying substantially more for their healthcare, prescriptions, copays, and medical devices.

Cancellation of the Continuation Option represents more of the same from NYU and Dr. Carlo Ciotoli, who have shown that they neither understand the economic situations of university students nor value our health.

In solidarity,

GSOC-UAW Local 2110

If you are a graduate student who has been affected by the cancellation of the Continuation Option, please reach out to us at gsoc@2110uaw.org. We are pursuing options to file a grievance on behalf of affected workers.