The Key Benefits:  
Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP)

The implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as PPACA, ACA, or Obamacare, has left many questioning the value of a student health insurance plan compared to other options available to students.

As of January 2014, students will have access to the following health insurance options:

- Remain a dependent on parents’ health insurance plan to the age of 26;
- Exchanges/Marketplaces— with premium tax credit, or subsidy, if income requirements are met;
- Catastrophic Plan, often referred to as ‘Young Invincible’ plans, offered through the Exchange/Marketplace;
- Medicaid - based on expanded eligibility requirements in some states including Minnesota;
- Individual health plan offered outside of the Exchange/Marketplace;
- School-sponsored student health insurance plan.

Why should students consider enrolling in the University of Minnesota-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP)?

- It may be the more affordable option!
- The University’s SHBP offers lower deductibles, copayments, out-of-pocket maximums, and premiums as compared to the lower cost options (i.e. Bronze and Catastrophic) offered through the Exchanges/Marketplaces. It is important to explore all options and choose the one that is the most cost effective when taking into consideration both premium cost and out-of-pocket costs.
- SHBP reimburses medical expenses incurred regionally, nationally or internationally outside of Boynton Health Service. This is often not the case with certain types of plans offered through employers or the Exchanges/Marketplaces.
- SHBP includes Travel Assistance Coverage which guarantees coverage through the year, including summer vacation and even while traveling or studying abroad.
- SHBP is designed to “wrap around” campus Student Health/Counseling/Athletic Services to provide the best access to primary and preventive healthcare.
- SHBP is purchased through the University at preferred pricing. Though there is no premium tax credit (subsidy) available, there are also no tax implications.
- In some cases, students can use financial aid to purchase student health insurance.

What are the key benefits of the University’s SHBP?

- The University’s SHBP is designed with student input to provide the most relevant and valued health coverage that best meets student needs.
- The plan is self-funded with no insurance “middle man” charging fees, commissions or profit margins to students—which reduces insurance overhead.
- Student premium dollars all go to their health care costs.
- Students own the plan and have a vested interest in holding down costs. If there are plan savings, it stays with the plan to hold down future premium increases or to expand benefits.