

# HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO FACULTY RETIREMENT

A publication of the  
**Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty**


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The latest version is available from PASEF at:  
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## Disclaimer and Authors

**Walter D. Wales**  
Professor of Physics and Astronomy  
1933-2011

Walter was a beloved and consummate University citizen who contributed to the well-being of the institution and his fellow faculty in innumerable ways. He spearheaded the creation of *Hitchhiker*, led its compilation and subsequent annual updates, and edited the first three editions. He will be missed.



This guide was prepared by volunteer members of the Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty as a summary of issues that standing faculty (tenure and clinician educator) members should review as they begin to consider retirement. It is not intended to be a detailed description of available benefits, nor is it intended to replace any of the official documents published by the University of Pennsylvania. Nothing in this document can be construed as providing financial or legal advice.

The guide was not prepared by and is not published by the University of Pennsylvania, its Division of Human Resources, or any University benefits administrators. The University therefore makes no representations or assurances regarding its accuracy or completeness.

Faculty are strongly encouraged to review in detail any summary plan description of benefits they consider to be important, as well as to speak to representatives from the Division of Human Resources and their own personal advisors before making any decision regarding retirement or benefits. The University offers many benefits to active and retired faculty, the terms of which are set forth in various plans and summary plan descriptions, which may be subject to change.

Janice R. Bellace - Wharton School

Janet A. Deatrck - School of Nursing

†Rob Roy MacGregor - School of Medicine

†Charles J. McMahon - School of Engineering

Martin Pring - School of Medicine

James C. Saunders - School of Medicine

Marvin E. Steinberg - School of Medicine

†Walter D. Wales - School of Arts and Sciences

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# Road Map to Retirement Planning

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

Consider whether income during your retirement will be sufficient to meet expenses. Expenses often rise due to increased free time and increased medical expenses, and income from Penn retirement accounts and social security may differ from prior pay. Also consider the cost of available retiree health benefits.

1

Begin planning at least 2 years before intended retirement. If you are not ready, you can defer.

2

## FOUR OPTIONS FOR TRANSITION TO EMERITUS STATUS

- A. Phased Retirement
- B. Faculty Income Allowance Policy (FIAP)
- C. Immediate Retirement
- D. Terminal Sabbatical

2A

### PHASED RETIREMENT

Maximum of 6 years; maximum reduction is half of full-time duties with proportional salary. Age <72 years old. You can do a Phased Retirement in combination with FIAP.

2B

### FACULTY INCOME ALLOWANCE POLICY (FIAP)

Pays for 2x the base salary if 10+ years of full-time continuous service and retirement is on or after age 65 and before June 30 the year you turn 72. In the Immediate FIAP, half is paid at retirement, and half is paid in the subsequent year. In the Phased FIAP, you can work 2 years at 50% pay and effort and receive the final payment the following year.

2C

### IMMEDIATE RETIREMENT

In an immediate retirement, faculty (often age >72) retire from full-time service directly. In this case you will not use FIAP.

2D

### TERMINAL SABBATICAL

You can use up to a year of accrued sabbatical immediately prior to retirement.

3

## DEVELOP A LETTER OF AGREEMENT

If you will remain engaged in University life during a Phased or FIAP Retirement, outline your needs in writing with your Department Chair or Dean. A Letter of Agreement covers duration, title, space and resources, activities, duties, compensation, and more.

## RETIREE RELATIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITY

### RETIREMENT!

Enjoy the many continued rights and privileges of retired faculty, including mail and email, free use of the library and museum, PennCard access, parking programs, Penn publications, non-voting participation in faculty governance, continued membership in PASEF, and so much more.

## Introduction

The emeritus phase of your faculty career is a new time when the pressures of deadlines, the quest for funding to support scholarly efforts, and worries about the assessment of performance are all comfortably behind you. The emeritus status within the faculty creates a newfound freedom to choose those academic activities that you enjoy most, and to explore other aspects of life within or outside the University that you promised yourself to do “when I’m not so busy.” It need not signal a disengagement or withdrawal from academic life, unless you so choose, but rather can be viewed as a “passage” from one stage to the next.

Many aspects of the emeritus state, as well as the process involved in becoming emeritus, can be quite confusing and obscure, with the necessary information scattered over a series of University documents. This booklet is an attempt to present essential information dealing with the emeritus transition in a concise “how-to” format to assist senior faculty in negotiating the necessary steps to achieve emeritus status. The material presented in this booklet emphasizes information specific to University standing faculty (tenure and clinician-educator). Faculty should also review the information published by the Division of Human Resources that applies to all University employees. Many of the relevant issues are briefly discussed on the following pages, with links to various websites for greater detail.

Subject to certain qualifying conditions, you can become emeritus using one of four options:

- A. **Reduction in duties or “phased retirement”** – This can occur over a maximum of 6 years and can be followed by use of FIAP, but only the immediate payment option (described below in Section II).
- B. **Utilization of the Faculty Income Allowance Policy (FIAP)** – The FIAP provides a severance payment that may also be applied in part towards a phased retirement option.
- C. **Immediate retirement** – This is available to all standing faculty.
- D. **Terminal sabbatical** – In addition, it is possible to take a sabbatical leave as a “terminal leave,” without the obligation to return to active status before retiring.

All of these options are described in greater detail below, and on various University websites.

A key point in preparing for retirement is the importance of developing financial planning well in advance. Waiting until you are near retirement can reduce your financial options; you should seek professional advice and understanding about which retirement plans are available to you as a faculty member at the University from the very outset of your life at Penn, particularly concerning maximizing contributions to retirement accounts.

As you approach your desired age for the shift from full-time to emeritus status, you may wish to consider the options available to you for continued involvement with your department, with your School, and with the University as a whole. Many emeritus faculty continue to teach, pursue scholarly projects, serve on committees, and attend departmental meetings, either with or without remuneration. You should bear in mind, however, that, to avoid adverse tax consequences (for example, imputation of income and imposition of 20% penalty) under IRS guidance, compensation from the University is limited to 50% of the pre-retirement level for

those taking direct retirement, and to 20% of the pre-retirement level for those retiring via FIAP. Annual requests require approval by the School and the Provost.

The amount of involvement (if any) that you wish as an emeritus faculty member should be discussed with your departmental chair in detail; issues should include what activities you wish to pursue, resources you would require ideally (such as office and laboratory space, administrative and secretarial assistance), and what your department will be able to provide. Once these have been resolved, they should be outlined clearly in writing as a “Letter of Agreement” prior to the date of retirement and acknowledged by both the faculty member and the department chair. Standard Penn faculty benefits that should continue in the emeritus phase, such as attendance at departmental activities and conferences, inclusion in correspondence and notices, listing in the University phone directory, e-mail, and use of University facilities should also be discussed, and provision made to assure that these will not be discontinued at the time that the Payroll Office considers you “gone” from a financial point of view.

The Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty (PASEF) maintains a website with specific links to up-to-date Penn retirement related information and resources (e.g., retirement planning, lecture series, and continuing care retirement communities). If you are retired or at least 55 years of age, you are automatically a member of PASEF, and we invite your involvement to help the organization serve the needs of its members and the University. (<https://pasef.provost.upenn.edu/retirement/penn-retirement-links/>).

The Benefits Office of the Division of Human Resources recommends that faculty contact them for a customized pre-retirement counseling guide as faculty begin to contemplate retirement. They can also be of assistance when you are going through the process of actively preparing for your retirement or when you are retired and have questions about your benefits. The e-mail account [benefits@hr.upenn.edu](mailto:benefits@hr.upenn.edu) is staffed for these purposes and will quickly identify and refer the question, request or concern to the appropriate person. Health Advocate also provides access to the Benefits Solution Center and can be reached at 1-866-799-2329.

Workday@Penn is the human resources system designed to integrate personnel, payroll, and financial processes. You can use it to make benefits selections, update your personal information such as address and telephone number, and conduct other transactions related to Penn. Log in using your PennKey and password to [www.myworkday.com/upenn/login.html](http://www.myworkday.com/upenn/login.html). If you are encountering issues related to your status or access to Penn services, contact the Employee Solution Center at 215-898-7372 (<https://www.hr.upenn.edu/contact-us> or email: [solutioncenter@upenn.edu](mailto:solutioncenter@upenn.edu)).

We recommend that when you are approaching retirement, you share *Hitchhiker* with your spouse/partner or significant others, since there are several sections in it that would become useful should you predecease them.

The following sections of this document are designed to be used either in sequence or as standalone sections.

**Section I – Financial Planning for Retirement** - This section gives an overview of expenses, income, and health benefits in retirement. It includes a discussion of Penn's retirement plans, Social Security income, and the health plan options. There are issues and costs that must be recognized in retirement fiscal planning. For more detailed information on these topics, you should refer to the several Penn publications referenced in this section.

**Section II – Options for Transition to Emeritus Status** – This section outlines the three potentially inter-related pathways to retirement: phased reduction of duties, the Faculty Income Allowance Policy (FIAP), and direct retirement without either of the former options. Terminal sabbaticals are also discussed. These avenues all lead to your retiring from the Standing Faculty and becoming emeritus.

**Section III – Retiree Relations with the University** – This section discusses the various options, needs, duties, and privileges that you should agree to with your chair before becoming emeritus. It also outlines the rights and privileges that are automatically granted to emeriti because of their new status.

We sincerely hope that this document will help you to navigate your transition to emeritus status. You are cordially invited to visit the PASEF website for other information, and to consider joining actively with other colleagues in the various activities of the Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty.

## I. Financial Planning for Retirement

### A. Expenses and Income in Retirement

The most important question facing most faculty members contemplating retirement is whether their income over the period of their retirement will be sufficient to meet their expenses. Since retirement from the University, once begun, is not easily reversible, it is essential that you explore this question thoroughly before you make a firm commitment to retire. As much as two years before a tentative retirement date is not excessively early to begin this exploration.

A precise answer to the question of the adequacy of your retirement resources requires knowledge of your life span and of the inflation rate and the return on investment during that life span. Inasmuch as none of these can be predicted with confidence, any projection of expenses and income will inevitably be uncertain – but an estimate is still better than nothing. If you find the projection for your case unsatisfactory, either because of the projection itself or because of the uncertainties in the projection, you might consider postponing the decision to retire.

Most retirement fund management companies have retirement projection instruments available on their websites. TIAA, which is a third-party administrator for Penn's retirement plans, offers retirement calculators and financial tools on its website:

<https://www.tiaa.org/public/tools-calculators>. More sophisticated instruments are also available, but most will require either a minimum level of investment or payment for the service. Unfortunately, even the most sophisticated projection instrument cannot provide guarantees of either your future income or your future expenses.

TIAA also offers more personalized services, whereby you can take advantage of one-on-one counseling as well as fee-based in-depth wealth management services. These services are based on the level of assets invested in the company's funds and have received decidedly mixed reviews. You may benefit from a review of your plans with an independent financial advisor who understands the details of the University's programs. Fee-based advisors, rather than those whose income depends on the sale of investment products, are thought to be more objective.

#### **Expenses**

Many people contemplating retirement assume that their expenses will then be substantially less than before. Unless retirement is accompanied by significant changes in lifestyle, this assumption is very often simply wrong. The only certainties brought by retirement are more time to spend money and increased costs for medical benefits. This increase can be substantial for some retirees, see [Cost of Coverage](#) under *Retiree Health Benefits*.

One approach to estimating expenses in retirement is to tabulate (not estimate) all expenses for a typical recent year. This tabulation should omit nothing. Once it is

complete, it can be examined to identify possible reductions. At the same time increases (e.g., medical expenses, travel, etc.) can be added to produce an expense projection for the first year of retirement. Since projections for future years require a prediction of inflation rates, expense estimates inevitably become increasingly uncertain over time.

## **Income**

### ***a) Penn's Retirement Plans***

The largest contribution to retirement income for most faculty members will be generated by payments based on past contributions, by both the faculty member and the University, to Penn's 401(a) Basic and 403(b) Matching Plans. Many faculty members have also made tax-deferred contributions to Penn's 403(b) Supplemental Retirement Annuity Plan. TIAA manages and is the record keeper for all transactions involving these plans. Federal law requires that distributions from such plan accounts begin by April 1 of the year following the year that the age of 73 is reached, except for those who remain employed by the University.\* Most take their first withdrawal in the previous year, to avoid having to make two, and pay tax on them, in the same calendar year. Withdrawals from Penn's plans are subject to federal income tax, but generally *not* Pennsylvania tax.

If you made contributions to similar accounts at one or more other institutions, you may want to consider whether to roll those funds over into fewer accounts (e.g., your Penn accounts). You may want to discuss with a TIAA representative or other professional financial planner, since rollovers, depending on how they are handled, may result in additional fees or tax consequences. (See caveats in Other Financial Institutions, p. 11 below).

Funds rolled over at least one year acquire the same withdrawal requirements and exemptions as those deposited at Penn. If you contributed funds outside Pennsylvania or live in another state that levies a personal income tax, you should consult a tax advisor to determine what, if any, local tax liability you face.

There is a range of options for ways to receive the funds in your retirement accounts. For instance, you may purchase an annuity, set up systematic withdrawals, receive a lump sum, or take only required minimum distributions (RMDs). Each option has different advantages and drawbacks, and you should speak with a TIAA representative to understand which options are available to you and what makes sense for your desired lifestyle.

\*To be treated as having been employed, you must be employed during the year in which you would otherwise reach the applicable age (currently age 73). Please note, once you are no longer employed by the University, your RMDs will commence. Reach out to TIAA before you solidify your plan to get a full picture of the options open to you and the timing of your retirement.

The calculation of the RMD is adjusted from time to time; the table below shows its current level for most individuals. Those with spouse-beneficiaries more than ten years their junior use a different calculation. We recommend that TIAA or the financial services company holding any of your IRAs make the calculations for you.

**"Uniform Lifetime Table"**

for determining lifetime required distributions for (almost) everyone

Age	Applicable divisor	Age	Applicable divisor	Age	Applicable divisor
		90	12.2	110	3.5
		91	11.5	111	3.4
		92	10.8	112	3.3
73	26.5	93	10.1	113	3.1
74	25.5	94	9.5	114	3.0
75	24.6	95	8.9	115	2.9
76	23.7	96	8.4	116	2.8
77	22.9	97	7.8	117	2.7
78	22.0	98	7.3	118	2.5
79	21.1	99	6.8	119	2.3
80	20.2	100	6.4	120	2.0
81	19.4	101	6.0		
82	18.5	102	5.6		
83	17.7	103	5.2		
84	16.8	104	4.9		
85	16.0	105	4.6		
86	15.2	106	4.3		
87	14.4	107	4.1		
88	13.7	108	3.9		
89	12.9	109	3.7		

Under the Minimum Distribution Regulations, the above “Uniform Lifetime Table” must be used. For each “Distribution Year” (i.e., a year for which a distribution is required), determine:

- A. The account balance as of the end of the preceding calendar year;
- B. The participant’s age on his or her birthday in the Distribution Year; and
- C. The “applicable divisor” for that age from the above table.

“A” divided by “C” equals the RMD for the Distribution Year. The RMD for the first year must be taken by April 1 of the subsequent year; all subsequent distributions must be taken by the end of the calendar year.

There are no restrictions (except the need to pay taxes) on use of any of the retirement funds except TIAA Traditional. Cash withdrawals from TIAA Traditional can only be made over an extended schedule, unless required to meet the RMD.

**We suggest that while doing this planning each year, you take the opportunity to check that your contact information and beneficiary designations (e.g., Life Insurance, TIAA, other retirement accounts) are up to date (e.g., in Workday).**

TIAA provides retirement seminars/webinars at the University as well as individual counseling to employees nearing retirement. If you are contemplating retirement, you have probably already attended one or more of these presentations. The next step is to become thoroughly familiar with the information on their website. Finally, you may wish to make an appointment with one of TIAA’s retirement consultants to begin the process of determining how the funds in your retirement accounts are to be used and which distribution option will work best for you. Vanguard consultations are not available to Penn plan participants, regardless of whether they have Vanguard funds within the plan. Consultations are only available to normal retail customer participants.

TIAA Contact Information:

- Website: [www.tiaa.org](http://www.tiaa.org)
- Retirement Call Center: 1-877-PENNRET (1-877-736-6738)
- To set up an appointment with a retirement consultant, call 1-800-732-8353 or visit TIAA on-line at <http://www.tiaa.org/upenn>
- TIAA Retirement plan webinars: <https://tiaa.org/webinars>

### *Other Financial Institutions*

When you retire, you may also choose to move some of your tax-deferred assets with TIAA into IRA accounts managed by another financial institution, or to use those assets to purchase an annuity from another insurance company. In such transactions it is important that funds pass directly from institution to institution (and not through you) to avoid immediate federal tax on the entire amount. Consulting a professional financial planner is recommended if you are considering this option.

## ***b) Social Security Benefits***

The Social Security Administration maintains a fairly easily navigable and informative website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2>. The information below (and much more) may be found on that site. Note however that this site often assumes that retirement and collecting benefits begin at the same time, whereas in reality their dates can be chosen independently.

The Social Security Administration has defined a “full retirement age” that currently varies between 66 and 67 years, depending on a retiree’s date of birth. Social Security benefits can begin as early as age 62 but are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month before full retirement age. Deferring them (up to age 70) after you reach full retirement age results in larger payments over your remaining lifetime. For example, a retiree with a full retirement age of 66 would receive 75% of projected full retirement age benefits at 62, but at least 132% of them if begun at 70.

Whether they begin earlier or later, a retiree receives about the same total Social Security benefits over their average expected lifetime, in amounts adjusted to take into account the period over which they are received. You should consider your own situation, including other sources of income, your tax rate, cost of living and likely longevity, before making your decision. The reductions/increments are fully explained on the SSA website.

Even if they have never worked under Social Security, your spouse at full retirement age can receive a benefit equal to one-half of your full retirement amount and can qualify for Medicare at age 65. If they have also worked under Social Security and are eligible for retirement benefits on their own record, your spouse will receive either those earned benefits or one half of your benefits, whichever is higher.

When you die, your spouse, at his or her full retirement age (calculated somewhat differently), is entitled to survivor’s benefits equal to your full benefits, if they are greater than those earned on their own record.

Employment while receiving Social Security retirement (or spouse’s or survivor’s) benefits is permitted. However, earnings from such employment will reduce benefits for individuals who have not reached their full retirement age.

## ***c) Other Resources***

Most faculty members and their spouses will have, in addition to income from Penn's retirement plans and Social Security, income from sources such as other savings, pensions from other employment, investment income, and continued employment which should be evaluated and included in an assessment of retirement assets.

## B. Retiree Health Benefits

The health benefits offered to retired employees by the University are influenced by the cost of providing medical care, by the programs offered by the health insurance industry, and by the regulations the federal government mandates for Medicare. Each of these is subject to change, as is the University's approach to meeting those changes. The material below represents the authors' understanding of the health benefits offered to retired employees in 2026. We hope this information will give you an overall sense of the scope and costs of the University's retiree health program. However, the details and costs of that program will almost certainly be different in 2027 and future years.

Providing health care coverage is a complicated process and the University continues to make improvements in the program. It contracts out the management of its benefits programs. Not surprisingly mistakes have sometimes been made. Retirees should be wary and vigilant for unexpected changes and unexplained problems and should not hesitate to question Human Resources about them.

Unless you obtain coverage from another employer or as a dependent on a spouse's plan, or when such coverage ceases, you should enroll in the University's retiree health program. When you enroll, you will need to select from several different options. Before you do so you should become very familiar with the information available on the website of the Division of Human Resources (for security this now requires authentication by Penn WebLogin with PennKey and password). In addition, you may find it useful to discuss the options with some of your retired colleagues already in the program to get their perspectives on the options available and attend PASEF programs on this subject.

For more detailed and current information, please refer to plan descriptions and information available from the Division of Human Resources ([https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/retirees/retiree-health-\(medical-dental-vision-prescription\)](https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/retirees/retiree-health-(medical-dental-vision-prescription))) including the "2026 Annual Selection Guide." If you plan to live outside the Philadelphia area you should check that your choice will cover you. Coverage outside the United States is generally minimal.

The rules regarding the timing and conditions for enrollment for retiree and dependent health benefits are quite specific and should be examined well in advance. When your department enters your retirement date into the Workday@Penn system you will receive an alert and should begin the process of selecting these benefits. If you defer your benefits, it is important to have any dependents listed in Workday@Penn at the time of your retirement. The Benefits Solution Center, staffed by Health Advocate for the University, can assist you with these processes (1-866-799-2329). **You should complete your selections and verify your eligibility within the 90-day period prior to your last day of service or participation in the program may be permanently waived.**

## **1. Eligibility**

The University offers benefits to retired members of the faculty who meet certain requirements. You are eligible to receive retiree health and other benefits if your age plus your years of service total at least 75, with a minimum age of 55 and a minimum of 10 years of service. Service must be full-time and continuous.

Eligible dependents include your spouse, and children up to the end of the month when they turn age 26. Note that if a child is disabled, the benefits may be extended past the age of 26, subject to prior certification of disabled status through your medical carrier. In the event of your death, medical coverage is available to your surviving spouse until remarriage or death, and to your children up to age 26 or if disabled.

## **2. Penn Care Connects and Health Advocate**

Penn Care Connects provides a concierge line that can be used to find a conveniently located Penn primary care provider and schedule an appointment. Call 1-267-414-2208.

Health Advocate provides access to the Benefits Solution Center and offers services for retirees including help with benefits enrollment, help finding providers and scheduling appointments with them, help getting approval for covered services, advice on the selection of insurance choices, and help with billing concerns. It is a free and confidential service. A flyer listing their services is sent with the annual selection materials. Reports indicate that they are particularly effective at resolving medical billing errors and problems with the collection of retirees' premium contributions. In light of privacy concerns and regulations, a moderate amount of paperwork is necessary. Contact them at 1-866-799-2329.

## **3. Medical and Prescription Drug Benefits**

### **a. Retirees Under Age 65**

**Medical:** Retirees and their eligible dependents under age 65 can choose from the following medical plans in 2026:

- Keystone/AmeriHealth HMO
- Aetna Choice POS II
- PENN Care/Personal Choice PPO

**Prescription Drug Coverage:** Retirees under age 65 who elect medical coverage through Penn will automatically be covered under Penn's prescription plan through CVS/Caremark. Prescriptions are filled by CVS at reduced cost. They can also be filled at a retail pharmacy, at one of the Penn Medicine Specialty Pharmacies, or through CVS/Caremark Mail Service. More options for maintenance medications are available at CVS pharmacies.

**For more information:** For detailed information about medical and prescription drug benefits, go to the Division of Human resources website at [https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/retirees/retiree-health-\(medical-dental-vision-prescription\)/retiree-prescription-drug-benefits](https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/retirees/retiree-health-(medical-dental-vision-prescription)/retiree-prescription-drug-benefits).

## **b. Retirees Aged 65 and Older**

**Medicare:** All retirees and eligible dependents age 65 and over or if disabled and under the Social Security Disability Income program who need coverage from the University must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B and receive their primary insurance from them. Part A covers inpatient stays in the hospital and certain nursing facilities. Part B covers doctor/professional services and certain other outpatient services and supplies. You can enroll in Part A, which has no cost to you, beginning 3 months before age 65. You should apply to enroll in Part B at least 90 days prior to your planned retirement date to avoid a possible gap in your coverage. Since Medicare Part A and Part B will cover you at 80%, Penn's supplemental medical plans will cover you for the remaining 20% less any co-pays, co-insurance or deductible that may be applicable under the supplemental plan of your choosing. You should provide the Medicare number and effective dates of Medicare Parts A, B, and D (prescription drug coverage) for yourself and any covered dependents in Workday@Penn.

**Medical:** You and your eligible dependents age 65 and over may currently enroll in the following Medicare-supplementary (Medigap) plans:

- Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO
- Medigap Retiree 65 Plus "N" (standard plan) (Medicare Supplement)\*\*
- Medigap Retiree 65 Plus "C" (premium plan) (Medicare Supplement)\*\*
- Independence Blue Cross 65 Special (Traditional)\*

\*This plan does not accept new enrollments. The Medigap Retiree 65 Plus "C" (premium plan) provides similar benefits.

\*\* Identification cards will only say Retiree 65 Plus, but the electronic records reflect the plan in which the retiree is enrolled.

All plans now include a hearing aid benefit. This also includes all the Medical plans that are listed above for those who are under 65. None covers routine dental care.

**Prescription Drug Coverage:** Retirees aged 65 and older who elect medical coverage through Penn can either elect or opt out of prescription drug coverage through Penn. The current plan is from SilverScript, a division of CVS/Caremark, and is a Medicare Part D employer group plan. It has been tailored to differ in several desirable ways from a standard Medicare Part D plan, including an expanded formulary and elimination of the "doughnut hole." **If you opt out of Penn's prescription drug coverage Part D when you retire, you will not be allowed to enroll in this plan in the future; therefore, you may want to enroll for**

**coverage in individual Medicare Part D.** Note that Medicare does not allow you to elect a non-Penn Medicare Part D plan if you enroll in a Medicare-Advantage or PPO plan; you must take the SilverScript plan. The University has determined that the prescription drug coverage it offers is on average expected to pay at least as much as standard Medicare Part D.

**For More Information:** For detailed information about medical and prescription drug benefits call the Benefits Solution Center (staffed by Health Advocate) at 1-866-799-2329 or go to the Division of Human Resources website at [https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/retirees/retiree-health-\(medical-dental-vision-prescription\)](https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/retirees/retiree-health-(medical-dental-vision-prescription)). For details of the SilverScript prescription plan go to <https://www.caremark.com/> For more information regarding Medicare prescription plans, contact Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and request the publication “Medicare and You.”

**c. Split Family Coverage:** Split family coverage occurs when, between the retiree and a dependent, one person is under age 65 and not eligible for Medicare and enrolled in a pre-65 medical plan, and one person is age 65 or older and is enrolled in a Medicare-eligible plan. Specific rules apply. See the Division of Human Resources website for more information.

**d. Cost of Coverage:** The move from active to retiree status will change you from an older member of a relatively young and healthy group to a younger member of an older and less healthy group. Unfortunately, the costs of providing medical services to this latter group are much higher. For retirees and the dependents of those hired before January 1, 2006, the University contributions to the premiums for Medicare-supplementary medical plans and prescription drug coverage are equal to 60% of the cost of the Medigap Security 65 Premium plan with prescription coverage, for those hired subsequently the support for dependents is halved to 30%. The balance of the premiums is billed to you.

The base premium for Medicare B is \$202.90 per person per month in 2026. Those with modified adjusted gross income (MAGI: IRS adjusted gross income *plus* tax-exempt interest) above \$109,000 (\$218,000 for couples) pay income-related adjustments (IRMAA, Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount) for Medicare B and Medicare D. For example, the premium for Medicare B rises stepwise to an additional income-related total adjustment of \$446.30 per person per month for those with MAGI at least \$205,000 (\$410,000 for couples) and topping out at an additional \$487.00 per person per month over the base premium for those with MAGI of at least \$500,000 (\$750,000 for couples). Details are available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). The sum of the premiums for drug and Medicare-supplementary medical coverage from the University ranges from \$170 to \$295 per month in 2026 for retirees who were hired before January 1, 2006; the premium for such retirees plus a dependent ranges from \$340 to \$590 per month. For retirees who were hired after January 1, 2006, the range is also \$170 to \$295 per month; the premium for

such retirees plus a dependent ranges from \$505 to \$755 per month. The costs for retirees under the age of 65, before support from Medicare is available, are considerably higher. Comparison of premiums can be found from [https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/retirees/retiree-health-\(medical-dental-vision-prescription\)](https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/retirees/retiree-health-(medical-dental-vision-prescription)). Note that medical insurance contributions that were deducted from your pay by the University were excluded from taxable income, whereas premiums paid by individuals after retirement are paid with after-tax dollars. Thus, the actual additional cost of healthcare coverage after retirement could be substantial, since it will include the cost of Medicare Parts B and D as well as the premium that you will be required to pay for your University-provided Medicare-supplemental insurance, none of which can be tax-sheltered.

**4. Dental Coverage:** Those who wish to continue with a Penn Dental provider may do so, but there is no Penn Dental retiree plan. Below is information about a discount plan, two retiree dental insurance plans, and COBRA dental benefits.

- **Vital Savings by Aetna:** This is a dental discount plan, not an insurance plan. If you enroll in it and visit a participating provider, you will receive an average discount of 28%. Contact Aetna at 1-877-698-4825 for more information. Mention that you are a Penn retiree and give the Promotional Code Number 882016015.
- **MetLife Retiree Dental:** MetLife offers two plans: the premium plan provides coverage similar to that of the plan available to active faculty; the standard plan provides less coverage at a lower cost. The plans may not be as cost effective as you expect, especially if you receive dental treatment from a non-MetLife dental practice. You may, however, save money by using a MetLife preferred dentist. These MetLife preferred dentists will accept MetLife as payment for a given service according to the MetLife agreed percentage. However, you will have some out-of-pocket costs in accordance with the plan. Non-MetLife dentists usually require that you pay the full amount due at the time the service is rendered but will forward information to MetLife and MetLife will send you a check for the amount that it will cover. Contact MetLife at 1-800-942-0854 for more information. Be aware that you are locked in for a certain period when you sign up for a MetLife plan. The lock-in period may be as long as three years. If you have a question about the lock-in period or want to know when you can cancel your MetLife coverage, you are encouraged to reach out to the Benefits Solution Center staffed by Health Advocate at 1-866-799-2329.
- **COBRA:** When you retire, you may be eligible to continue your existing dental benefit through COBRA for up to 18 months. For more information on COBRA review Penn's online health and welfare summary plan description at <https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-pay/health-life-and-fsa/health/cobra> or contact the Benefits Solution Center (staffed by Health Advocate) at 1-866-799-2329. The end of COBRA benefits is a qualifying event at which point you

are eligible to choose a different plan, for example the MetLife Retiree Dental plan when you are no longer eligible for coverage by an active dental plan.

## 5. Vision Coverage

- **Aetna Vision One:** If you enroll in the Vital Savings by Aetna Dental Program, you will automatically have access to the Aetna Vision One discount program. You can use vision providers in nearly 13,000 participating Vision Centers through this program.
- **VSP:** There is a comprehensive vision care plan available to retirees from VSP.
- **COBRA:** When you retire you may be eligible to continue your existing Davis or VSP Vision benefit through COBRA for up to 18 months. For more information on COBRA, review Penn's online health and welfare summary plan description at <https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-pay/health-life-and-fsa/health/cobra> or contact the Benefits Solution Center (by Health Advocate) at 1-866-799-2329.

## C. Other Benefits

**Life Insurance:** When you retire the University provides you with a life insurance benefit of \$10,000 provided by MetLife at no cost to you. You should make sure that your beneficiary is listed in Workday and they are aware of this policy. You may also convert your existing group life insurance benefit at Penn to an individual policy provided you apply within 31 days of your retirement date. For more information about converting your life insurance coverage, contact the Benefits Solution Center (staffed by Health Advocate) at 1-866-799-2329.

**Pre-Tax Expense Accounts:** Participation in the University's Pre-Tax Expense Accounts ends when you retire. If you incurred eligible expenses while you were actively employed, you can continue to submit them through the grace period at the end of that year. For more information, contact the Benefits Solution Center (staffed by Health Advocate) at 1-866-799-2329.

**Long-Term Care Insurance:** You and your eligible family members can apply for Long-Term Care insurance at any time before or after you retire; your family members are also eligible to do so after your demise. For more information, contact Genworth at 1-800-416-3624. For those who have an existing long-term care contract with Penn's previous vendor, John Hancock, you can contact John Hancock at 1-800-482-0022.

**Disability:** Coverage under Penn's short-term and long-term disability programs ends when you retire.

## **II. Options for Transition to Emeritus Status**

### **A. Phased Retirement**

Phased Retirement is a period prior to full retirement during which a faculty member's duties are reduced to permit a gradual transition from full activity. It must be followed by full retirement from the University. The maximum length of the period is six years. The maximum reduction is to one-half full-time duties. Smaller reductions, as well as reductions which vary from one year to the next, are also permitted. During the period of phased retirement your salary and those benefits that are proportional to salary are reduced proportionately to the reduction in duties. You continue to accrue eligibility for scholarly leave at a rate proportional to the reduced level of your duties. Other benefits continue as for full-time faculty. Scholarly leave during the final year of phased retirement is allowed, as it is for full-time faculty during their terminal year.

The phased retirement option is only available when there is a good match between your department's needs and your concept of appropriate duties during the period of phased retirement. If you wish to contemplate phased retirement you should initiate discussions with your department chair well before the period of phased retirement is to begin. You and your chair must develop a mutually acceptable plan for your responsibilities during the period of phased retirement that is sufficiently detailed to minimize the potential for disagreements which requires the (usually routine) approval by the Dean and Provost.

If you meet the age and service requirements of the Faculty Income Allowance Policy (FIAP – see Section II.B. below) at the end of the period of phased retirement you may enroll in the Immediate FIAP option of that program. Benefits from the FIAP for faculty members moving to full retirement at the end of phased retirement are the same as for faculty members moving from full-time service to full retirement. Your payment from the FIAP will be calculated using your equivalent full-time academic base salary in the final year of your phased retirement.

### **B. Faculty Income Allowance Policy (FIAP)**

The Faculty Income Allowance Policy is described in detail on the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty's webpage here, <https://faculty.upenn.edu/faculty/retirement/> including an up-to-date booklet and FAQ. It is a severance program that provides a payment of 200% of a retiree's academic base salary. It is available to those who have 10 or more years of full-time continuous service to the University and who terminate on or after age 65 but before June 30<sup>th</sup> of the academic year in which they reach the age of 72. Faculty members who meet the minimum service requirement at a later age may elect it as of the academic year-end that they do so. The payment can be applied in one of two ways, "Immediate" or "Phased," described below.

Under Immediate FIAP one half of the payment is made soon after termination and the other half on or before March 15<sup>th</sup> of the year following termination of employment. Under Phased FIAP one half of the payment is applied to provide 100% academic base salary for two years of 50% effort and the other half is paid in a lump sum on or before March 15<sup>th</sup> of the year following termination of employment.

FIAP payments could be classified by the IRS as “deferred compensation” under certain circumstances, which could have tax consequences on both the retiree and the University. Therefore, paid performance of services to the University after termination is only permitted in special circumstances and is limited to 20% of the pre-retirement level to avoid potential designation as excessive “deferred compensation” and consequent penalties. The FIAP is best suited for individuals whose career plans align with it, but they should weigh its effects on taxable income and potential increases in Medicare Parts B and D income-related premiums.

Phased Work FIAP maintains active-employee benefits until completion; Immediate FIAP starts retiree benefits immediately. In the event of your death while receiving FIAP benefits, the balance of any payments due to you is passed to your beneficiary as a lump sum.

To initiate your application for FIAP, obtain the relevant forms and paperwork from the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty: <https://provost.upenn.edu/for-staff/administrative-affairs/finance/faculty/>. The office itself can be reached at [provost-fac@upenn.edu](mailto:provost-fac@upenn.edu) or 1-215-746-2552.

### **C. Immediate Retirement**

Some faculty members will decide to continue in full-time service beyond 10 full-time continuous years until they retire at some age older than 72 years. In this case you will not use the FIAP but will of course be eligible for all other retirement benefits. You should also be sensitive to the suggestions contained in this guide. If you continue to serve the University part-time your compensation will be limited to 50% of its pre-retirement level to avoid designation as “deferred compensation” by the IRS.

### **D. Terminal Sabbatical**

Most standing faculty members accumulate more sabbatical leave credits during their careers than they can utilize. Regardless of the path you take towards retirement, if you have unused credits, you are entitled to take up to a year of terminal sabbatical leave immediately prior to retirement under FIAP or immediate retirement. You apply for this in the same way as for regular sabbaticals: by letter via your department chair to your School’s personnel committee. Your letter should include confirmation of your intent, conditional, if relevant, on expected benefits, to retire at the end of the sabbatical. Standing faculty members may take sabbatical immediately before participating in Immediate FIAP or Phased FIAP, provided they meet the FIAP eligibility requirements at the end of their scholarly leave and engage in research/scholarship during their leave. Faculty who choose Phased FIAP may not take sabbatical leave during the phased period.

### **III. Retiree Relations with the University**

#### **A. Letter of Agreement**

Faculty considering entering emeritus status who plan to remain engaged in University life at any level will require certain facilities to do so. It is strongly recommended that these be defined in a Letter of Agreement with the chair of the department or dean of your School. This should represent a binding commitment outlining the conditions by which you will remain active in the affairs of the department. If you will be participating in the FIAP the letter should be appended to the FIAP agreement with the University at the time that it is signed. It is preferable that the agreement be for multiple years, rather than one year with option for renewal. All Schools now require an annual request for projected teaching or research. Remember that faculty considering the timing and conditions of retirement enjoy considerable leverage with the University that vanishes when they commit to a date.

The Letter of Agreement defines the relationship that replaces the one that you formerly enjoyed as an active faculty member. The Handbook for Faculty and Academic Administrators extends many benefits to emeritus faculty that encourages them to retain a connection with the University. Since some department chairs appear not to be familiar with these rights, privileges, and benefits, and since a department chair in future may not know to what a predecessor agreed, you are strongly advised to secure a Letter of Agreement. Your letter should include those things that are normally afforded to emeritus faculty, as well as facilities that are extended on an “as available” basis, and also items that are specific to you and to your relationship to your department. Your School may have a template for letters of agreement. The complexity of the letter will depend on issues such as any financial relation, teaching commitments, grant support, space requirements, or income from scholarly grant activity or practice activities in the professional Schools. For most faculty, legal advice on the Letter of Agreement is not necessary, but if complex financial arrangements arise, it may be advised. If the letter commits non-trivial resources or makes a commitment on behalf of your School, it should be endorsed in writing by the dean of the School as well as your department chair. The form of the letter ought to be written as a statement of agreement so that the signatures of the chair and the dean unambiguously indicate concurrence with that agreement. Below are some suggestions that may prove helpful in framing such a letter.

1. Define concisely the conditions under which you remain involved in the life of the department. Affirm that the agreement is binding on the department and School and on you.
2. Indicate the duration of the agreement, usually beginning at the retirement date, in single or multiple yearly intervals, and any conditions relating to its renewal.
3. Choose whether your title is to be changed to Emeritus Professor or retained as

Professor.

4. Specify office space in the department.
5. Affirm permission to attend faculty meetings as either a voting or non-voting member, and continued receipt of notices of such meetings.
6. Define the nature and extent of continued teaching responsibilities. Detail precisely the nature of any compensation. Specify that necessary supplies and other support, such as computer upgrades, will be provided.
7. Indicate permission to supervise students and trainees in whatever capacity is appropriate. If there are students under supervision at the time of retirement, define arrangements to continue supervising them and their duration. With regard to doctoral students, see Section C, Teaching and Mentoring, below.
8. If the submission of grant proposals is anticipated, confirm that those submissions will be supported by the department. If foundation support will be requested include an understanding of the source of indirect costs.
9. Specify access to specialized space, e.g., laboratory space (perhaps shared with other faculty). If grant support continues beyond retirement, confirm retention of current laboratory space.
10. If grant support in the form of a no-cost-extension continues beyond retirement, specify continued payment of salary from that source, including dollar amount and rate of remuneration, as per department/School policy.
11. Detail the nature of compensation if income is anticipated from any other extramural sources (e.g., co-investigator on a colleague's grant award) or intramural sources. For the special case of continued professional service, detail the nature and extent of the service to be delivered, expected compensation, and source and support for malpractice coverage. Legal counsel is advised to deal with this matter.
12. Define continued access to secretarial services and department administrative support (e.g., departmental research service personnel, program coordinators, etc.) as needed.
13. Define continued availability of School-based services such as software and other computer support, as desired. To prepare for this, contact your School's IT department for details and assistance as you prepare for retirement. Each School handles the retirement process slightly differently. Note that for PennO365 the University license agreement is only valid for retired faculty who are coded "Emeritus" in Penn Community

(<https://isc.upenn.edu/penn365/penn365/penn365-it-provider-guide>). The basic Adobe package is also included. Advanced versions of Adobe may be accessible through your School's virtual portal.

14. Affirm permission to continue departmental committee work, if desired.
15. Affirm permission to continue mentoring junior faculty.
16. Specify permission to retain your departmental mailing address.
17. Specify permission to retain your e-mail address and its listing through the department.
18. Define phone and mail privileges as needed.
19. Specify that specialized School or professional ID remains in an active state.
20. Specify that security entry keys (for instance, to your office suite, and to the building) be maintained operational.
21. Specify that you keep receiving announcements of Departmental/Divisional meetings and activities as well as the Almanac and Gazette. Indicate that you want continued listing in relevant School and University directories.
22. For clinicians in the biomedical Schools, it may be important to specify the terms under which you will continue to be a member of the medical staffs of University-owned hospitals.

## **B. Off-Boarding and On-Boarding**

**Off-Boarding:** When you retire from Penn, you may receive information from Equifax (via email) regarding offboarding regarding unemployment compensation. As a retiree you do not need to reply.

**On-Boarding:** If you decide to return to Penn after retirement in some capacity (PT or Temporary) you may be required to go through a process of "onboarding" and complete a new I-9 form: Once the Workday Inbox onboarding tasks are complete, you need to complete Section 2 of the Form I-9 Work Authorization in person at Onboard@Penn, located at 3601 Walnut Street-2nd floor of the Penn Bookstore, *no later than 3 days after your hire date*. Click [www.onboard.upenn.edu](http://www.onboard.upenn.edu) to make an appointment. Make certain after onboarding to check with your department business administrator that your Workday ("View Profile") is current. Make sure you are listed as "Retired/Active" and Emeritus as that will permit you to be eligible for University contributions to TIAA. You will have to re-elect the % level of contribution you wish to make.

## C. Continued Rights and Privileges

No faculty member gains new rights or privileges in the University upon retirement, but many of those rights and privileges that you enjoyed prior to retirement continue to be extended. This is a summary of some of the more commonly used among them.

It is recommended that you specify the continuation of any benefits that are important to you in your Letter of Agreement (see previous section) to protect against changes in University policy regarding them.

**Correspondence (Mail and E-Mail):** You may receive mail at the University and may use the University as a mailing address. You will be listed in the University's online directory if you desire. You may continue to use your University e-mail account. It is suggested that you inform your School's IT support group as to whether you wish to retain this account at the time of your retirement. If you set a forwarding address to an extramural supplier, you should remember to log in to your University account regularly – at least once every six months in most cases – to avoid it being marked dormant. Upon your death, typically your email account will be locked and will become inaccessible.

**Cultural and Recreational:** Access to cultural activities is the same for emeritus as for standing faculty. While posted fees for access to athletic facilities are the same for emeritus as for standing faculty, discounts such as those at facilities such as Pottruck Gym that are offered to standing faculty are not available for emeritus faculty. The fees for indoor tennis, the squash courts and the fitness centers are the same for emeriti. There are no discounts for athletic events.

**Grant Applications:** You may file research or travel grant applications. The consent of the relevant department chair or dean must be obtained prior to submission to the Vice Provost for Research according to the procedures outlined by the School and the University. Such applications will be transmitted further only, if necessary, if office and laboratory space are available. If there is a shortage of such space, first priority must go to continuing full-time faculty. In this context it should be noted that use of an Emeritus title is optional, since some faculty believe that it disadvantages them with grant review panels.

**Libraries and Museum:** The library usage privileges enjoyed by standing faculty are continued for emeritus faculty members. Access continues to the Library itself with your PennCard and its electronic subscription databases via PennKey authentication as well as Open Access publishing agreements, which are in place for an expansive number of publishers at no cost for Emeritus faculty when using their Penn Email for submission. One-on-one consultation with a reference librarian remains available. You may apply for faculty studies in Van Pelt Library if such facilities are required. Access to the University Museum continues to be free for emeritus faculty.

**Office and Work Facilities:** When you are actively engaged in productive scholarship, the University will try to provide office space with a telephone and PennNet outlet, as well as clerical assistance from the departmental pool. Such aid can be granted only if it is available; priority must necessarily be given to continuing full-time faculty. Similar considerations apply to laboratory space if you are in the experimental sciences. If this is an important element of your retirement plans it is very strongly recommended, as discussed above in the Letter of Agreement section of this brochure, that these provisions be clearly enumerated in a binding written agreement with your department chair and/or dean. For those without a personal office, PASEF has a small room at 112 Duhring Wing that can serve as a drop-in office. You can get access information from the PASEF office at 215-746-5972 or [pasef@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:pasef@pobox.upenn.edu).

**Parking:** Emeritus Faculty, as identified on their Workday profile, are permitted to utilize any parking permit or parking program offered by Parking Services and as outlined at [www.upenn.edu/parking](http://www.upenn.edu/parking). 12 parks per month and Occasional Parking offers are extended for Emeritus faculty only to include the Museum Garage and Nursing Garage for those who are currently parking there. Individuals who wish to register should contact [parking@upenn.edu](mailto:parking@upenn.edu) to establish a personal solution and obtain your credit card or, if eligible, arrange payroll deduction.

**Participation in Governance:** Retired faculty members are said to have the right to attend meetings of their School faculties and may participate in the work of committees of those faculties if invited. In practice the notification to emeritus faculty of the times and places of such meetings varies between Schools. In Schools where this is not routine you may need to inform the appropriate staff person that you should be included in distribution lists for mailings. Departments are free to decide which classes of faculty are invited to their meetings. The treatment of emeritus faculty in this respect varies widely across the University. The right to attend Faculty Senate meetings, without voting rights, is extended to emeritus faculty by the bylaws of the Senate.

**PennCard Identification:** Access to most cultural and recreational facilities in the University, as well as to many buildings, requires a PennCard. You are entitled to such identification. Emeritus faculty will receive a new PennCard automatically when they go to renew their regular PennCard. Your spouse also continues to be eligible for a PennCard for a fee of \$30; see <https://penncard.business-services.upenn.edu/> for details.

**Publications:** All standing and emeritus faculty are regarded as alumni and so are entitled to *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. Remember to inform the *Gazette* of your preferred mailing address. *Almanac* and *The Daily Pennsylvanian* are available to those who come to campus. If you would like to receive *Almanac* by e-mail you can sign up at <https://almanac.upenn.edu/express-almanac>. Both publications are now available on the web at the time of printing.

**Social:** All emeritus faculty, standing faculty and full-time associated faculty over the age of 55 are members of PASEF, the Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty, unless they opt out. PASEF informs, advocates, and engages around the concerns of senior and retired faculty, and organizes social, cultural, and educational events for its members. Contact the Associate Director, Sarah Barr, for information about specific issues you would like to bring to the attention of PASEF's governing Council, becoming more involved with PASEF, and specific PASEF activities. She can be reached at 215-746-5972 or [pasef@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:pasef@pobox.upenn.edu). If you are a faculty member from Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM), you may also want to explore the Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty (ASEF-PSOM) at: <http://www.med.upenn.edu/asef/>.

**Teaching and Mentoring:** Continued teaching in areas of special expertise and mentoring junior colleagues are mutually beneficial avenues of continued engagement. As an emeritus faculty member, however, you cease to be eligible for the teaching awards reserved for standing faculty, such as the Lindback Award, but become eligible for those restricted to other than standing faculty, such as the Provost's Award.

Emeritus Faculty may participate in Graduate Group activities only with prior approval from both the Graduate Dean and the Vice Provost for Education. Retired standing faculty may serve as members of doctoral committees and they may supervise a doctoral student's thesis. However, they cannot chair a doctoral committee.

**Tuition and Educational Benefits:** Faculty tuition benefits are continued if you are eligible for such benefits at the time of your retirement. They are available for any School in the University to which the individual has been admitted. They cover 100% of tuition and technology fees for up to two course units per term.

Tuition benefits for your spouse and dependent children are continued unchanged on retirement, and indeed even after your death.

It should be noted that some of the above benefits are regarded as taxable income and are reported to the taxation authorities as such. Generally, most undergraduate tuition benefits are not taxable, but some or all of graduate tuition benefits are; see <https://www.hr.upenn.edu/PennHR/benefits-compensation/tuition> and the links from it for more details.

The Senior Auditing Program in the College of Liberal and Professional Studies (née General Studies) allows senior citizens, whether or not affiliated with the University, to enroll in most undergraduate lecture courses in the School of Arts and Sciences for \$500 per semester per course, for auditing only. Several other local Universities offer similar programs.

Of course, if you wish to sit in on the course of an acquaintance, you may do so with the suggested courtesy of requesting prior permission.