

Eligibility for the Graduate Assistant / Short-Term Benefit Package

The decision tree, below, was created to aid institutions on the policy guidance from the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) regarding active WRS participants who are not able to enroll in Graduate Assistant/Short-Term Benefit Package.

A WRS covered (local or state) employee may not participate in the Graduate Assistant/Short-Term Benefit Package. The graduate assistant or short-term academic staff employee must terminate all active WRS employment (local and state) to allow enrollment within initial enrollment period (first 30 days), regardless of whether the WRS employment provides comparable health insurance coverage. The employee must decide to terminate other WRS covered employment during the initial enrollment period (first 30 days of eligible employment) in order to be eligible to enroll in the Graduate Assistant/Short-Term Benefit Package.

If the employee continues WRS covered employment, an initial Graduate Assistant/Short-Term Benefits Package enrollment is not granted.

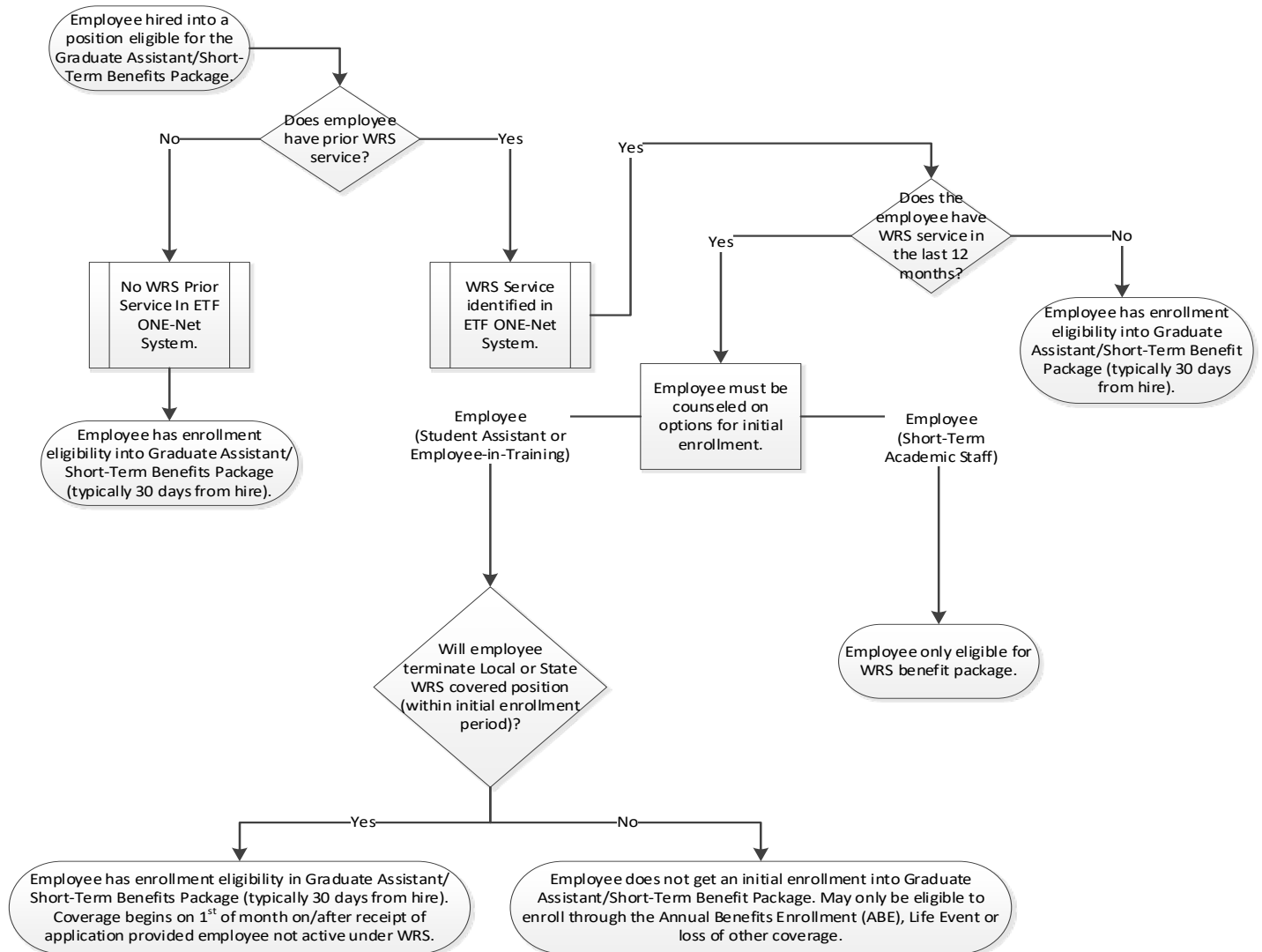
If the employee terminates WRS-covered employment after the initial 30-day enrollment period, he/she will not get a new enrollment opportunity as a result of the termination. The employee may only enroll outside of his/her initial enrollment period due to loss of coverage/life events or during Annual Benefit Enrollment period (ABE), provided they are not actively employed under the WRS.

Local WRS employment affects only the State Group Health Insurance enrollment and will not affect enrollment options for other eligible plans such as supplemental dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance and flexible spending accounts.

Note: Short-Term Academic Staff employee enrolled in the Graduate Assistant/Short-Term Benefits Package will be evaluated under WRS lookback and if they become WRS eligible they will be moved to the WRS Benefit Package. Information on WRS eligibility can be accessed here: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/benefits/ret/wrs/#Eligibility>.

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Graduate Assistant/Short-Term Benefit Package Enrollment Process



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For questions, contact UW System Human Resources at uwshr@uwsa.edu.