

# The University of Wisconsin System

## Administrative Policy # 1270 (formerly PY2)



### Title: Optional General Payroll Deductions

Original Issuance Date: July 1, 2015

Last Revision Date: ~~November 11, 2022~~ July xx, 2025

## 1. Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth criteria for establishing new optional general payroll deductions and define an annual review process for active optional general payroll deductions. This policy does not apply to the establishment of mandatory general payroll deductions as defined in Section ~~35~~ Policy Definitions of this policy.

## 2. Responsible UW System Officer

Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer

## 3. Scope and Institutional Responsibilities

This policy applies to all UW System institutions and the UW System Administration, except for UW-Madison.

## ~~42.~~ Policy Background

This policy was previously issued as University of Wisconsin System Administrative Policy: Optional General Payroll Deductions on June 2, 2014. Prior to June 2, 2014, there was no defined policy to request or approve new optional general payroll deductions for UW System. Under Wis. Stat.

§§ 20.921(1) and 40.03(6), which set forth the requirements for what is allowable as a deduction from salary as well as in Chapter 30 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code which sets forth requirements for payroll deductions for charitable purposes.

During the development of the administrative policy effective June 2, 2014, 195 active general deductions were reviewed by human resources staff of UW System institutions and institutional stakeholders to validate the business need for each deduction. Twenty-five (25) deductions were inactivated effective July 1, 2014, due to this review process. The Executive Committee for Enterprise-Wide Administrative Systems approved both the inactivation of the twenty-five deductions and the Optional General Payroll Deductions administrative policy on February 11, 2014. The administrative policy was converted to UPS Operational Policy PY 2: Optional General Payroll Deductions effective July 1, 2015.

## ~~53.~~ Policy Definitions

Please see SYS 1225, General Terms and Definitions, for a list of general terms and definitions.

*Definitions specific to this policy:*

**Mandatory general payroll deductions:** ~~are~~ Deductions necessary to meet regulatory or system obligations (such as subsequent year FICA deductions), benefit program deductions that are not set up in Benefits Administration, or deductions for employee expenses which must be collected and paid to another entity, such as rent charged to employees who live in state-owned housing, controlled by the Department of Administration (DOA). Wis. Stat. § 20.921 (2) further defines mandatory payroll deductions.

**Optional general payroll deductions:** ~~are~~ Deductions not required by law but are established through a request and approval process. [Wis. Stat. § 20.921 \(1\)](#) further defines optional payroll deductions.

**Payroll deductions:** ~~are~~ Amounts withheld from an employee's paycheck to pay a specific entity. Deductions may be mandatory or optional and may be pre-tax or post-tax.

## **64. Policy Statement**

### **A. Criteria for Optional General Payroll Deductions**

An optional general payroll deduction must meet all the following criteria to be approved:

- I1.** The general optional payroll deduction should support the mission of the institution(s) and provide an institution-wide opportunity to support a multi-scope mission and have the support of the Chancellor (or designee).
- I12.** Optional general payroll deductions should be taken on multiple, consecutive payrolls (one-time or infrequent deductions should be taken using the institution's accounts receivable deduction).
- III3.** Institution-specific optional general payroll deductions (those not sent to an outside entity) should be reimbursed to the institution directly through an institution funding string. The creation of a physical check will be strictly limited.
- IV4.** If the amount due is not deducted from the employee's paycheck, the institution and/or the UW Service Center are not responsible for the collection of the amount owed.
- V5.** There may be rare exceptions to any or all of the above criteria. The UW Service Center Payroll Manager will determine if the exceptions are allowable.

### **B. Process to Request a New Optional General Payroll Deduction**

All requests for new optional general payroll deductions must be approved by the institution's Human Resources Director, the UW Service Center Payroll Manager and if necessary, the UW System Human Resources Director.

The following steps are required to request and approve a new optional general payroll deduction:

- I1.** The institution's Human Resources Director will initially review and approve a request per the criteria outlined in Section **64.A.** of this policy. This institutional process to request a new optional general payroll deduction may be further defined by the institution.
- I12.** The institution's Human Resources Director must sign and complete a [New Optional General Payroll Deduction Request Form](#) and forward it to the UW Service Center Payroll Manager at least 45 business days prior to the beginning of the pay period in which the deduction should begin.
- III3.** Once received by the UW Service Center Payroll Manager, the Manager will determine if the requested optional general payroll deduction is approved based on the criteria set forth in this policy. If the Manager, in consultation with the Service Center Director, questions whether or not the deduction aligns with this policy, the request will be forwarded to the Director of UW System Human Resources for further consideration.
- IV4.** Additional information may be requested of the institution at any time.
- V5.** Once the new optional general payroll deduction is approved, the UW Service Center Payroll Manager will notify the institution's Human Resources Director of the approval date and effective date of the deduction.
- VI6.** Before a request is denied, the UW Service Center Payroll Manager will consult with the Director of UW System Human Resources. Once it is determined that the request should be denied, the UW Service Center Payroll Manager will notify the Human Resources Director who initiated the request.
- VII7.** If an institution would like to appeal the denial of a request, the appeal should be initiated by the institution's Chief Business Officer and submitted to the UW System Administration's Vice President for Finance and Administration for consideration.

### C. Annual Review of Optional General Payroll Deductions

On an annual basis, the UW Service Center Payroll Manager will review the active optional general payroll deductions, including those that were grandfathered as of the original issuance date of the administrative policy on June 2, 2014. Those deductions that do not meet the requirements of this policy, have lower than anticipated usage or have not been used for at least 12 months, may be inactivated. The institution's Human Resources Director will be notified in advance of the deactivation.

## **75. Related Documents**

[University of Wisconsin New Optional General Payroll Deduction Request Form](#)

[KB 16987 – HRS Payroll – Maintain Employee General Deductions](#)

Wis. Stat. § [20.921, Deductions from Salaries](#)

Wis. Stat. § [40.03\(6\), Group Insurance Board](#)

Wis. Admin. Code Chapter [30, Payroll Deductions for Charitable Purposes](#)

## **86. Policy History**

[Revision 2: July xx, 2025](#)

[Revision 1: November 11, 2022](#)

[First approved: July 1, 2015](#)

The Executive Committee for Enterprise-Wide Administrative Systems approved the Optional General Payroll Deductions Administrative Policy on February 11, 2014, and the policy was issued on June 2, 2014. The administrative policy was converted to UPS Operational Policy PY 2: Optional General Payroll Deductions effective July 1, 2015 and then to [SYS 1270, Optional General Payroll Deductions](#), on July 15, 2019.

## **9. Scheduled Review**

[July 2030](#)