



**MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY  
RETIREMENT SUPPLEMENTAL VOLUNTARY PROGRAM  
(RSVP)**

**I. Introduction**

Michigan Technological University, hereafter called “the University”, has adopted the Retirement Supplemental Voluntary Program, hereafter called “RSVP”, to facilitate the voluntary retirement of eligible employees. The RSVP is not an early retirement program. While employees are not constrained to retire at any particular age, arrangements for retirement are a natural part of an employee’s personal and professional planning. This program provides information and, in some cases, incentives, that should make retirement planning easier. The RSVP encourages continued participation by retirees in the University community.

A clear, uniform and fiscally responsible policy is to the mutual advantage of both the employee and the University. It helps the employee and their respective department plan for retirement in an orderly manner. It facilitates resource allocation while retaining the contribution of those who wish to be actively engaged.

The decision to retire is left to the discretion of the individual employee, and remains entirely voluntary. However, if an employee decides to retire, the RSVP provides several retirement options: a monetary option; a phased retirement option; a combination of the monetary and phased retirement options; and a program for employment after retirement.

Although the RSVP refers to employee benefits, such as health insurance and life insurance, it is intended that all employee benefits continue to be provided through, and governed by, the terms of the employee benefit plans maintained by the University. The University retains the right to alter, eliminate or revise the RSVP at any time in the future.

The retiree’s department will be required to cover all costs associated with the RSVP. Upon retirement the retiree’s department normally will retain the base budget salary support for the position, which would be used to pay for the RSVP, address budget cuts, or meet other resource needs.

Before making a final retirement decision employees are expected to contact the Social Security office and either TIAA-CREF/Fidelity or MPERS retirement consultants. The employee should also consider consulting a financial planner, accountant or attorney before signing up for the RSVP.

For eligibility information see Section VI.

**II. Monetary Retirement Option**

The monetary retirement option provides a benefit equal to 50% of the eligible employee’s annual salary (9 month salary for faculty) at the time of their actual retirement date with a benefit cap of \$75,607. The benefit cap will be reviewed periodically and adjusted based on the percentage increase in the contribution and benefit base amount established by the Social Security’s Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program.

Contribution and benefit bases, 1937-current can be found at: [www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/cbb.html](http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/cbb.html)

In many cases, the employee will not receive the benefit as a cash payment. The monetary benefit will be deposited into a Certificate of Deposit to pay health insurance premiums for a Health Benefits Plan, hereafter called “the Plan”.

- Payments will be pre-tax when applied to the Plan’s premium.
- The percentage premium co-pay for health care will be fixed at the date of retirement as described in the Plan.
- The amount is payable to the health care premium cost until the monetary benefit is exhausted.

An employee who has post retirement health insurance benefits, for example through MPERS, TRI-CARE, AARP etc, shall be entitled to receive the full monetary benefit on the first pay period following the retirement date, subject to applicable tax withholdings. The employee must present proof of alternate health insurance coverage to the University one month before their retirement date.

To be eligible for the monetary retirement option, the employee must meet eligibility requirements described in Section VI.

### **III. Phased Retirement Option**

It is sometimes to the mutual benefit of both the employee and the University to enter into an arrangement where an employee's workload is reduced as they approach retirement. Where such arrangements are possible, the employee may elect to enter into the phased retirement option.

Arrangements for participation in this option require a mutual, written agreement between the employee and their respective dean, director or department head/chair. Faculty requests for Phased Retirement, require approval from the chief academic officer

Under the phased retirement option, the employee will be permitted to work part-time (50% effort) for up to three (3) years and in return, agrees to retire by the end of that period.

Part-time work for faculty can be achieved either by working full-time during one semester and not working the other semester or by working part-time for two semesters during an academic year. For staff part-time work will be determined based on departmental needs.

The employee receives the following benefits:

- Group Health Insurance
- Life insurance and long-term disability based on percentage of base salary earned.
- Employee education benefits – the same as full-time regular employees (at 75% effort or greater).
- Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP) – the same as full-time regular employees (at 75% effort or greater).
- Vacation and sick leave will be accrued based on the percentage of time worked.
- Retirement contribution will be based on the percentage of base salary earned.

During the phased retirement period, the employee may also supplement their part-time salary, with grant or contract support (soft money), subject to the University's compensation policy.

A faculty member who retires through this phased retirement option will be freed, if desired, from department, committee, administrative, and other duties as far as possible during the period of phased retirement.

To be eligible for the phased retirement option, the employee must meet eligibility requirements described in Section VI.

### **IV. Combined Monetary/Phased Retirement Option**

Arrangements for participation in this option require a mutual written agreement between the employee and their respective dean, director or department head/chair. Faculty requests for Combined Monetary/Phased Retirement, require approval from the chief academic officer.

The combined monetary/phased retirement option allows for the employee to select either a two-year phase out or a one-year phase out each with a monetary benefit. Movement between the options is not allowed. Under both the two year and the one year phase out, the employee works 50% time and will be eligible throughout the year for employee benefits. See Section III for the list of benefits.

- Two-year phase out – will receive 1/3 of the monetary benefit.
- One-year phase out – will receive 2/3 of the monetary benefit.

The monetary benefit will be provided consistent with Section II.

During the phased retirement period, the employee may also supplement their part-time salary, with grant or contract support (soft money), subject to the University's compensation policy.

A faculty member who retires through this phased retirement option will be freed, if desired, from department, committee, administrative, and other duties as far as possible during the period of phased retirement.

To be eligible for the combined monetary/phased retirement option, the employee must meet eligibility requirements described in Section VI.

### **V. Subsequent Employment**

Subsequent employment will follow standard University hiring procedures.

Any person who participates in the RSVP forfeits any and all rights to participate in future University retirement incentive programs or other similar programs.

## **VI. Eligibility**

To be eligible for the RSVP an employee must meet one of the following criteria, at the date of retirement:

- Age plus full time years of service (30 hours or more per week) at the University equals 80 or more or,
- Age 65 or older and ten (10) or more years of full time service (30 hours or more per week) at the University.

The employee can only elect one of the retirement options. This election is binding, therefore the employee cannot move from one option to another.

The employee is obligated to comply with all rules and regulations of the University and perform services at standards acceptable to the University. Participation in and receipt of benefits under the RSVP is conditioned on the employee continuing to be employed by the University through the agreed upon date of his or her retirement under the standards of conduct to which he or she is subject.

Eligibility is limited to those employees who retire on or after January 1, 2002.

## **VII. Notification Requirement**

In order to participate in the RSVP, the employee must follow all application requirements.

The employee must complete the RSVP election form and follow the application process. Employees may sign RSVP paperwork announcing their intention to retire under the RSVP during an open enrollment period between the dates of July 1 and October 31. Employees retirement date MUST fall within that same fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). If the employee wishes to sign RSVP paperwork announcing their intention to retire under the RSVP outside of the open enrollment period, supervisor approval must be given and the retirement date must still fall within the same fiscal year. Election under all retirement options is irrevocable.

In addition to the eligibility requirements to participate, an employee must make an appointment with the Benefits office to review the employee's eligibility for the RSVP and to assist in the completion of the application process. .

The employee has 7 calendar days after they sign the RSVP application form to revoke their decision to participate in the RSVP.

## **VIII. Death**

If an employee, who has elected to retire under the RSVP and is eligible for the monetary benefit, dies before the benefit is received, their surviving spouse, beneficiary or estate will receive their monetary benefit.

If an employee, who elected to retire under the RSVP and has been applying the monetary benefit to the Health Plan, dies before the benefit is exhausted; the remaining amount will be paid to their surviving spouse, beneficiary or estate.

An RSVP beneficiary form must be completed as part of the application process.

## **IX. Lay-Off Waiver**

If an employee is scheduled for an involuntary lay-off or an involuntary reduction in hours and meets or exceeds the eligibility requirements under the RSVP, that employee may be eligible to participate.