



Hello 'Roo Families,

So, here we are on the threshold of Austin College Spring Term 2021. Each new semester brings a boost of enthusiasm as students begin new classes and move closer to meeting their educational goals. We're excited about the fresh start, and mindful of significant challenges that remain from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

For students returning to campus, COVID safety protocols are in place to help mitigate the spread of the virus. As students arrive for Spring Term, they are required to have a PCR COVID-19 test. The College has partnered with Advanced Laboratories in Sherman to conduct these tests conveniently on campus, and for surveillance testing through the semester. Your student's test is scheduled by Residence Hall or as an approved commuter between February 1 and February 5.

Test results will be reported to the student and Austin College Health Services. As always, everyone is expected to wear a mask inside and outside of buildings, safely distance from others, and wash hands frequently. Please view the **Return to Campus** video sent out earlier this month for important reminders about daily health checks, visitor registration, and healthy practices. The **Austin College COVID page** will be updated regularly with weekly reports on the **COVID Dashboard**.

## Money Matters

Austin College's Financial Aid Office uses FAFSA data to develop your student's financial aid package each year. All students should complete the application yearly and *as soon as possible* at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). The last day to complete FAFSA is May 1, 2021, but do it now if you have not already. You can save time by using the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool** to easily collect your 2019 tax information. If you have questions, contact the Financial Aid Office at 903.813.2900 or [finaid@austincollege.edu](mailto:finaid@austincollege.edu).

## Re-Up for Residence Halls

It is time to begin the Room Selection process for 2021-2022, and informational meetings begin the first week of February. Look here for **Important Dates and Information** about living arrangements for the next academic year.

## Activities and Opportunities

Data shows that students who are engaged in activities of interest in addition to their studies do better overall in college. Even with COVID protocols in place, many opportunities exist for students to build friendships and pursue their interests. Students will find updates on the Austin College Mobile App and the Student Digest. We have some great Student Activities already on the calendar:

**Spring Opportunities Fair**, February 9, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the College Green/Windsor Mall

**Greek Recruitment Registration**, January 27 through February 17

**Greek Formal Rush**, February 22 through February 25

**Greek Bid Day Workshop**, February 27, 9 a.m. to noon

**Kangapalooza!!** April 9, Roller skating and virtual concert

## Start Strong this Spring

**The Scarbrough Center for Writing** opens Monday, February 8, with online tutoring sessions for *any kind of writing* at any stage of the process ... start to finish. This includes personal statements for scholarship and internship applications! Check out these videos to learn [how to make an appointment](#) and [what an online writing session is like](#). The Scarbrough Center for Writing is available for all students.

**The Academic Skills Center** is also open to all students, and tutors are ready to help with content, time management, and organization. Access Services for students who qualify for academic accommodations are currently registering students for the Spring Term. Any student who received academic accommodations in previous semesters and wants to use them this spring should contact Academic Skills Center Director Laura Ramsey at [asc@austincollege.edu](mailto:asc@austincollege.edu). If you'd like more information about ASC or accommodations, please send an email.

## From College to Career

~~Spring is the time to~~ start planning for internships and post-graduation employment. There are two important **Career Services** events this spring for your student to attend.

**Virtual Career Fair** is February 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; registration opens on February 8. Students need to register in **Handshake**, using their Austin College email credentials. This is a great time for students to polish up their Handshake profiles as they prepare to visit potential employers about part-time and full-time jobs and internships. Email notifications will be sent to students through the classification email digests.

**Career-Readiness Check** is April 16. The Career-Readiness Check is an opportunity for your student to have a virtual interview with two professionals to assess how prepared they are for a career search. Each interview will be scored, and the results are turned into a Career Action Plan. This empowers your student to take valuable steps toward post-graduation career goals. Registration information will be sent to students through the classification email digests in March.

We'd like to say congratulations to the Class of 2021 as they launch the final semester of their time at Austin College. Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, ~~May 22~~, and details will be shared as they are available.

As we move forward, we hope your student had a great JanTerm experience. It was especially rewarding for the First-Year Experience students who benefited from ~~activities~~ to help them establish strong roots as they grow at Austin College. Whatever year your student is at Austin College, we hope they continue to grow and transform in positive ways.

Go 'Roos!

