

[Ver este correo electrónico en idioma Español.](#)



October 23, 2020

Hello 'Roo Families,

Here at Austin College we're enjoying what some consider to be "perfect weather." The air is cool, the sun is warm ... and then suddenly it's 97 degrees. Believe your students when they tell you they are still wearing shorts on most days.

Academics and Campus Life

We hope your student has hit their stride with studies and activities. But, in all fairness, the regular routes to friendship and "plugging in" are different in 2020. Organizations and groups are using the new [AC Mobile App](#) to promote their COVID-safe activities—often happening on Zoom. Your student, whether learning on campus or remotely, is invited, welcomed, and wanted at these events. It's never too late to join in, because student success is deeply connected to feeling a part of the scene.

The other key to student success is getting academic help *before* it's an emergency ... or after. Whichever. Your student has a faculty mentor who has made it their life's work to teach and advise for success. They "get it" when things are challenging and, they are only an email or phone call away. Fear not, they are expecting a call.

The [Austin College Academic Skills Center](#) and [Scarborough Writing Center](#) are free services with appointments made and conducted online. Computer Science tutors have recently been added to the Academic Skills Center online platform; they're available Sunday through Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. ASC Peer Tutors and Peer Writing Assistants are available for all subjects.

Looking ahead to Spring Term 2021, all courses will continue with in-person and synchronous remote teaching and learning. Students will again complete separate Learning Commitment Forms for JanTerm by October 30, and for Spring Term 2021 later in December.

Money Matters

Application for [FAFSA 2021-2022](#) is now open. You can use the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#) to easily collect your 2019 tax information. The Austin College Financial Aid Office uses FAFSA information to develop students' financial aid packages for the upcoming academic year and encourages all students to complete the application early. If you have questions, contact the Financial Aid Office at 903.813.2900 or finaid@austincollege.edu.

28 Days Until Thanksgiving Break!

At end-of-day on Friday, November 20, all classes will break and on-campus students will return home for Thanksgiving Holiday and to complete the final weeks of Fall Term 2020 remotely, including exams. If a student has a compelling reason to be on campus through the end of the semester, they must complete and submit a [Request to Remain on Campus Form](#) to Resident Life by noon on Friday, November 13.

Housing assignments do not change for JanTerm or Spring Term, so residents may leave their belongings secured in the Resident Hall during the break. They should take necessary items such as medications and travel documents as they will not have access to their rooms until JanTerm.

As you welcome your 'Roo back under your roof, remember they will need study space as classes continue synchronously from November 30 through final exams ending on December 11. Students can contact the Austin College IT Help Desk if they experience technical difficulties during that time.

What Do You Want to Be?

This is a perfect time to talk about your student's hopes and dreams for a career or continuing education. Austin College Career Services, another free service, has many resources to help plan for next steps. [PathwayU](#) is an online talent assessment that can help students determine majors, minors, and career options. And [Handshake](#) is a colossal clearing house of internships and jobs just waiting for 'Roos who are ready to work. Both of these services are online, free and accessible anytime.

Staying Healthy Every Day

On October 1, Austin College implemented mandatory random COVID-19 testing for students, faculty, and staff who come to campus. Although the virus is present on campus, it remains controlled while the community continues to learn and live as safely as possible. You can read the most current information on the [Monitoring the Coronavirus](#) page on the website.

[Health Services](#), located in Adams Center, has flu vaccines available for \$30 (billed to student accounts or AHP student health insurance). There are also several pharmacies near campus that will bill other insurance. If students have any health concerns, they are encouraged to call 903.813.2247 for an appointment.

We often remind students that along with COVID-19 protocols like wearing face masks, keeping physical distance, and washing our hands, to stay healthy it's important to eat well, get good sleep, and avoid undue stress by staying on top of classwork.

Coming in November:

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1. Turn back the clocks.

Spring Term 2021 payment plans open November 1.

Spring Term Registration is November 9 through November 11.

Thanksgiving Break (no classes) is November 23 through November 27.

The Business Office will bill for Spring Term 2021 around November 23. Your student will receive an email that the statement is available on WebHopper. Please see the [Business Office page](#) for details.

We hope you and your family are well, and we look forward to sending news from campus each month. If you have questions or concerns, please address them to vicepresident@austincollege.edu.

Go 'Roos!