



They did it! You can feel the energy now that the students have made their way back to campus. In his email to the community on the first day of class, President O'Day wrote, "With the start of this new year, know that we will not be defined by COVID-19. Rather, life at Austin College will go on." So, we are wearing masks, proceeding with COVID testing, offering on-site vaccination, and pressing onward toward a great academic year.

The President's COVID Task Force closely monitors the positive virus cases and vaccination rates at the College and the surrounding community. And, we are following recommendations from the CDC, local, and state health authorities. Everyone here wants to stay here and stay healthy. You can see the most up-to-date information about COVID and Austin College [here](#).



Another Important Health Issue

All students are required to have health insurance coverage while at Austin College. If your student is covered by your policy, they must waive the insurance provided by the College. This is an annual "to do," and applies to all students. No action is required if you are electing the policy offered by the College.

The annual premium of \$2,297.00 will be added to tuition billing unless you go online and complete the Online Waiver Form by August 27. That's TOMORROW.

This charge cannot be reversed after August 27. Proceed to the [Student Insurance page](#) on the Austin College website for complete instructions.



Your Student Can Find Their People

The first few weeks at college can set the tone for a student's overall well-being. Studies confirm that students who are engaged in a co-curricular activity also do better academically and emotionally at school. Whether trying something new or continuing a favorite pastime, your student can build a satisfying life at Austin College.

Today was the Opportunities Fair where all the [groups and organizations](#) set up tables on the North Lawn for a giant meet and greet. If you talk with your student soon, you can definitely ask about that!



Support for All 'Roos

Students who are working with [Access Services](#) at Austin College will meet this **Sunday at 6 p.m.** in WCC 254 for a student-lead session to talk about adjusting to college, how to ask for help, navigating the process--all while making some new friends. If your student is planning to use academic accommodation this year, this session is mandatory.

Also, new this year, **First-Generation college students** have an ongoing Lunch and Learn series to help them adjust to college life. Did you know that about one out of every four students here at Austin College are the first in their families to go to college? With our First Gen programming and help from **Traci Howard-Moore**, Director of Student Success and Transition, these students will receive the support they need.

It's so exciting to begin this academic year. We hope you stay connected through the [Austin College Parent Group](#) on Facebook and follow us on YouTube and Instagram.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming **Homecoming and Family Weekend, October 22-24**. Details will be coming soon. At this time, visitors are welcome on campus and asked to follow the stated expectations for masks inside buildings.

It's certainly understandable if things are a bit quieter at home. We're so glad all the 'Roos are here, and we'll take great care of them.

Go 'Roos!

