



## PARENT NEWSLETTER | November 2023 Edition

*Hello! We're happy to bring you exciting and important news especially for 'Roo Parents and other supporters. The topics below are timely and of interest to Austin College families from first year to final year. If you have questions about anything covered here, please contact us by email at [vicepresident@austincollege.edu](mailto:vicepresident@austincollege.edu).*

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### Spring Term Bills Available Soon

Your best resource for information related to tuition, fees, and all things money related is the [Austin College Business Office webpage](#). These are the **high priority** points for this month:

- Spring 2024 bills send in mid-November with a January 15th due date.
- Spring payment plans, administered by [ACI Payments](#), open in November. You can choose a 4-month plan with payments beginning in December or a 3-month plan with payments beginning in January.

As always, Austin College sends the tuition bill and account updates to your student, and all business can be conducted online through WebHopper.

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### FAFSA: New Form, New Date

There are major changes and improvements coming to the 2024–25 **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA®) form. As a result, the new form will be available in December 2023. The launch date will apply only for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.

The changes to the FAFSA form for the 2024–25 aid year include expanded eligibility for federal student aid and a more streamlined application process.

### Stay Informed

Stay informed about the changes and receive up-to-date notifications and information from the Department of Education:

- Did you fill out a FAFSA form for 2023–24? [Log in to your StudentAid.gov account](#) and be sure your current email address is listed. Once the exact FAFSA launch date is announced, they expect to send out an email to students (and parents of dependent students) who

applied on the 2023–24 form, reminding them to apply for 2024–25.

- Didn't submit a 2023–24 FAFSA form? Make sure to [create your StudentAid.gov account](#)—and remember your username and password so you can access and submit the 2024–25 FAFSA form when it is available.

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## Check Out the Library: Hours & Resources

If your student is studying while on Thanksgiving break, they can access the library's electronic resources remotely!

### [How to Access the Library Remotely](#) [Abell Library Hours](#)

The Abell Library extended hours have not been finalized at this time—but they will be similar to Fall 2022:

- Wednesday & Thursday of the week prior to Finals: open until 1 a.m. (2 extra hours per night)
- Friday & Saturday of the week prior to Finals: regular hours
- Sunday of Finals Week: open until 11 p.m. (2 extra hours)
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Finals Week: open until 1 a.m. (2 extra hours per night)

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## Thanksgiving Break Dates and Expectations

**Thanksgiving break** for students is Saturday, November 18 through Sunday, November 26. Classes resume on Monday, November 27. Austin College offices will be closed November 22–24 for the holiday.

**The residence halls will close** at 5 p.m. on Friday, November 17, and students may return to campus starting at noon on Sunday, November 26. The deadline was November 8 at noon to request special arrangements to stay on campus.

**Students do not need to remove their belongings** for Thanksgiving or winter break. However, remind your student to clean out the mini-fridge, unplug appliances and computers, bring home any medications and important documents. The Austin College Police Department patrols campus 24/7, so residence halls and vehicles will be monitored as usual.

**Dining Hall closes** on November 17 at 2 p.m. and reopens November 27 at 7 a.m.

**Pouch Club closes** on November 17 at 7 p.m. and reopens November 26 at 5 p.m.

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## You, Your Student & Final Exams

It seems like you just dropped them off at Austin College, and yet...final exams are around the corner. With only three weeks left in the semester (and one of those is the Thanksgiving break), your student may be having big feelings.

Parents can be helpful by sending encouraging texts, calling to Facetime with the family pets, asking about what your student has enjoyed and learned this semester, and listening. Remind them that—along with studying—good food, fresh air, and sleep will make a positive difference in their outcomes.

Also, it is never too late to visit the Center for Student Success and Access Services, and the Scarbrough Center for Writing!

### [2023 Fall Term Finals Schedule](#)

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### **Flu Shots are Available on Campus**

**Flu shots are available** in the Adams Health Center by appointment only. Students should call 903.813.2247. The cost is \$30 (billed to your student's College account), or free to students who are enrolled in Academic Health Plan insurance through the College.

For COVID or other vaccinations, there are pharmacies nearby that take insurance.

### [Complete Austin College COVID-19 Protocols](#) [More Information from Health Services](#)

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Extra news you can use!

### ***Q: How can I advise my student when there's a maintenance issue in the residence hall?***

**A:** Any maintenance issue should be reported **by your student** for repair. They will send an email to [physicalplant@austincollege.edu](mailto:physicalplant@austincollege.edu). This generates a work order, which is assigned and addressed. For example: malfunctioning toilet, broken hinge, leak detected.

*As a parent, you should not report issues for repair. Your email will not generate a work order, and Physical Plant cannot follow up with you. But, you can ask your student to cc: your email address when they do—for the record.*

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