



PARENT NEWSLETTER | January 2024 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.

FAFSA: New Form is Now Available

The 2024-2025 FAFSA opened on **December 31, 2023** and is now available 24/7 after a brief "soft launch." The site has experienced some planned pauses and downtimes which might continue.

We wanted to share this [helpful article](#) with you as you prepare to submit the FAFSA this year. Along with that resource, here are a few other important items to note:

- All Austin College students who receive financial aid are required by the school to complete the FAFSA each year.
 - If you need any help as you work to fill out the [FAFSA](#), our financial aid team is here to answer your questions. Contact us at finaid@austincollege.edu.
 - Colleges and universities will not begin to receive students' FAFSA data until **late January**. Aid packages for returning students will be completed *after* the spring term grades are posted.
 - **The FAFSA submission deadline for returning students for the 2024-2025 academic year is May 1.**
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Take a Breather Before Spring Term

JanTerm classes end Wednesday, January 24, and Spring Term classes begin on Tuesday, January 30. During the five days between, students may stay in their residence halls, however the dining hall will be closed. **The Pouch Club will be open from noon to 7 p.m.** each of those days serving lunch and dinner. Spring Term Hopper Dollars will be activated and available to purchase lunch and dinner in the Pouch Club. Please plan accordingly.

Campus Protocols for Inclement Weather

Winter weather has arrived! It is forecast to be quite cold for the next few days, with some possibility of snow over the weekend. As a reminder, in the event of inclement weather such as

ice and snow, all faculty, staff, and students should exercise individual judgment regarding their ability to travel safely to campus.

Being a residential campus, Austin College will generally remain open even during inclement weather. If the College cancels classes or other services at any point, notifications will be sent to students' email addresses and/or the college's emergency alert system and posted on the college's webpage. Otherwise, assume the campus is open and classes are in session during any academic term.

- While the campus remains open during inclement weather, decisions about the need to cancel a particular class or hold it remotely can be made by individual faculty members. Should a faculty member cancel a class or hold it remotely, they will notify their students directly.
- Students are not expected to place travel for class attendance above their own individual health and safety. Students who are unable to attend class for safety reasons should not be penalized.
- It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor prior to missing class.
- Staff members will be expected to report for work as usual unless the college closes business operations or delays opening. Should that happen, it will be communicated via email. As always, if a staff member is unable to attend work they should contact their supervisor directly.
- Physical plant and campus police routinely patrol the campus. When there is ice on the ground, sidewalks and hard surfaces will be sanded and salted for safety, but it is recommended to walk on the grass when possible.
- Regardless of weather conditions, **Austin College Dining Services will remain open** according to their regular schedule and meal plans will be active.

Spring Bills are Now Past Due

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 are in your student's portal and were **due January 15, 2024**.
- You can still enroll in a monthly payment plan for spring tuition and fees, administered by [ACI Payments](#); that opportunity closes on **January 31**.

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

Important Dates for 2024 Residence Hall Selection

You can read the [Room Selection Booklet](#), produced by the Office of Student Life, for all the information your student needs for residence hall selection. Informational meetings and application dates are coming soon.

[Residence Life Calendar](#)

2025 JanTerm Travel Scholarship Applications Open Soon

If your student hopes to travel for JanTerm in 2025 (yes, next year), applications for travel scholarships open January 26, 2024 and close March 8, 2024.

To learn more and to access to the application go to [JanTerm Travel Scholarship Information](#).

Important: Students will apply for the travel scholarship *before* they register for 2025 January Term classes. Students can be better prepared and understand their financial situation when it's time to register for JanTerm classes April 23-25, 2024.

Mark Your Calendar for Spring Break

Spring Break is March 11-15; residence halls close at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 8 and reopen at noon on Sunday, March 17. The dining hall will not be open during Spring Break.

Extra news you can use!

Q: What happens if my student gets COVID-19?

A: Any student who tests positive to COVID-19 should contact Health Services at health@austincollege.edu or call 903.813.2247.

Q. It's cold & flu season, what does my student do if they get sick?

A: Students should contact each professor individually (by email) to explain their status. They should NOT attempt to attend class or go around campus if they have symptoms such as fever, cough, vomiting, and diarrhea. Fever and coughing should be resolved for 24 hours before going out among classmates.

Q. What health services does Austin College provide?

A: Visit Health Services for a list of services and times available on campus. And, all students, regardless of their insurance provider or campus residence status, can use the College's free telehealth benefits by visiting academiclivecare.com.

To login, use **ALC** as the Service Key when signing up for an account. Before the visit, your student will be prompted for payment, at that time please use Coupon Code **ALCROOS23** to waive payment. These virtual medical and counseling services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!



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