



PARENT NEWSLETTER | February 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.

What's Going on with the FAFSA?

You may have heard by now that the FAFSA has been delayed, and colleges are not expecting to begin receiving FAFSA data until **mid-March**. Current Austin College students can consider waiting a few weeks to complete the FAFSA since financial aid packages for returning students will be processed once spring grades are posted at the end of the semester.

Other points to remember:

- All Austin College students who receive financial aid are required 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.
 - **The FAFSA submission deadline for returning students for the 2024-2025 academic year is May 1.**
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Payment Plans Open for 2024-2025 Academic Year

You can set up a payment plan for 2024-2025 beginning **March 1**. If you select the 12-month plan, payments will begin in April. Get ahead of next year's costs with a payment plan through ACI Payments Inc.

[2024-2025 Payment Plan Information](#)

Spring Break: Just Three Weeks Away

Students living in residence halls must leave by 5 p.m. on Friday, **March 8**, and may return at noon on Sunday, **March 17**. If your student needs to stay past this time, prior approval is required. Point them to the online form with instructions to complete it soon! The form must be completed by the student.

Spring Break Extension Form

Time to Choose: Four-bedroom Apartment Applications Open

Housing arrangements are underway for 2024-2025 academic year. Applications for on-campus, four-bedroom apartments are now open through **March 10**. For more information, students can refer to the Residence Life Calendar.

Residence Life Calendar

2025 JanTerm Travel Scholarship Applications Open Now

If your student hopes to travel for JanTerm in 2025 (yes, next year), applications for travel scholarships have opened and will close on **March 8, 2024**.

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**.

JanTerm Travel Scholarship Information

Coming Soon: Emergency Contact Check-up

Each semester, Austin College confirms students' emergency contacts (ICE) and tests our Emergency Alert System.

On Monday, **February 19**, your student will receive an email telling them to review and update their ICE contacts in Webhopper.

On Monday, **February 26**, at 4:30 p.m., the **Emergency Alert System test message** will be sent by email, text, and automated phone call to all ICE contacts on record. If you are listed as the ICE contact for your student, you should receive these test messages. If you do not—but are expecting to—please follow up with your student to check their ICE designations.

Healthy Habits = Better Results

Statewide influenza cases are trending up and COVID cases are trending down. We have had a few student cases of both on campus this Spring Term, and we're encouraging students to maintain healthy habits.

We're not telling them anything you wouldn't: get some sleep, stay hydrated, wash your hands, and eat right. If your student does test positive for COVID, they should contact Health Services at health@austincollege.edu immediately. COVID and flu tests are available in the Health Center in Adams Center for a small fee.

Extra news you can use!

Q: *How can my student learn more about studying abroad?*

A: Visit the Austin College webpage for general information at [Study Abroad Programs | Austin](#)

[College](#). The Spring 2024 Study Abroad Fair is scheduled for **March 5**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first floor of Wright Campus Center.

Q. Where is the Office of International Programs located?

A: Director Cheryl Marcelo and the Office of International Programs are located in Wright Campus Center, Room 204, 903.813.2309.

Q. What do students have to say about their experiences abroad?

A: There are many testimonials and pictures on the webpage listed above, and you and your student can follow @AC.OIP on Instagram for the latest information.

Q. If I, as a parent, have questions about things like financing and safety, where can I get information?

A. Visit the [Parent FAQ](#) for International Programs.



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