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 communications@austincollege.edu.

Welcome to Campus for Commencement!

Congratulations to the families of students who will be graduating this Saturday! May you experience enough joy to make up for the missed high school commencement in 2020. We remember—that was the worst.

To make Commencement 2024 the best, here are five helpful tips for a positive experience:

Assuming no need for rain plan*, the outdoor seating is abundant and first come first serve, so arrive early if location is important to you (7:15ish a.m.). There are no lines, no stairs, and no reserved seats (other than for the graduates and faculty). If you can save seats, you may.

Professional photographers will take pictures of your student during the ceremony, and proofs will be sent to you in the mail—it’s magical. Because you may also want to take your own, a space is roped off for you to do that. Please send one photographer from your group to the photo gallery shortly before your student crosses the stage. Do block the view for others by walking, stopping, or standing in front of the crowd.

Services include water stations, golf cart shuttles, and designated bathrooms near Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court. Anyone preferring or needing to be indoors during the ceremony may watch the livestream inside Wynne Chapel.

Make a plan for where and when you will meet your graduate after the ceremony. Students have an hour after the ceremony to pick up their diplomas and visit with faculty members along Windsor Mall.

The unique atmosphere of an Austin College Commencement combines all the pomp with a welcoming and festive vibe. Enjoy! Staff members will be on hand to help if you need assistance.

* RAIN PLAN: While we hope and plan for great weather, we do have a rain plan for either an indoor ceremony or an outdoor ceremony with a delayed start. The rain call will be made at 5:00
a.m. on Saturday morning, and any changes will be communicated by email and text message to seniors and communicated on the [website](#). Follow the link for rain plan details.

**Commencement 2024—What You Need to Know**

**Commencement Livestream** (goes live at 8 a.m., Saturday, May 18)

**See You Soon: 24-25 Academic Calendar**

There are only 15 Mondays before Fall Term 2024 begins with the 176th Opening Convocation scheduled on Monday, August 26. Move-in for most returning students is Sunday, August 25. Some athletes and student leaders have earlier move-in dates. For the complete 24-25 Academic Calendar, including all scheduled breaks, look here:

[24-25 Academic Calendar](#)

**Something New for All ‘Roos! AC Launches New Website**

Austin College will launch a new website on May 28, featuring a clean and intuitive interface with dedicated pages for the many constituents it will serve: parents, students, alumni, faculty and staff, and prospective students and their families. Research shows that most people view the site using a mobile device, so the design is created with that in mind. Note: the site will be down for a part of May 28 during the switchover.

While we aim for a smooth transition, please note that some links you may have bookmarked or that are included in our previous communications — even links in this email! — could be broken when the new site launches. If the search feature on the page doesn’t get you where you need to go, please email us at [communications@austincollege.edu](mailto:communications@austincollege.edu) for help finding information on the new webpage.

**Students Will be Notified of Fall Term Billing**

The Business Office will bill fall charges around July 1. An email will be sent to your student when the statement is ready for viewing through Self-Service.

**Payment Plans Open for 2024-2025 Academic Year**

2024-2025 payment plans through ACI Payments Inc. are now open. You can get ahead of next year’s costs today!

[2024-2025 Payment Plan Information](#)

**Waive or Enroll: 2024-2025 Student Health Insurance**

All registered, full-time students (including International Teaching Assistants) are required to either purchase the Austin College Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) for the 2024-2025 academic year or show proof of comparable coverage. Austin College is pleased to offer a
student health insurance policy at an affordable cost of $2,567 (August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025).

Students may continue with coverage on their own or their parents’ policy, but still must waive (decline) insurance offered by Austin College. Failure to decline the school-offered insurance will result in a charge on your student's account in the full amount of $2,567.

The following instructions to accept or decline the insurance were sent to your student in an email. To secure health insurance or avoid the charge, follow up with your student today. Deadline is June 17, 2024.: 

**To Waive the Student Insurance Plan**

Go to https://austincollege.myahpcare.com/. Select Begin Waiver. Your user ID is your AC student ID (with one leading zero in front (i.e. 067xxxx) and your password is your date of birth in this format: MMDDYYYY.

You will need to upload a picture of the front and back of your current insurance card. Again, the deadline is June 17, 2024.

**To Enroll in the Student Insurance Plan**

Go to https://austincollege.myahpcare.com/. Select Begin Enrollment, then click Domestic & International Students and Click Here to Enroll. Your user ID is your AC student ID (with one leading zero in front (i.e. 067xxxx) and your password is your date of birth in this format MMDDYYYY.

If you are unable to log into your AHP account to waive, please contact AHP Customer Service at 855.370.7215.

**Student Telehealth Services Extend Through the Summer**

With AcademicLiveCare (ALC), Austin College students can initiate on-demand virtual visits on their smartphone, tablet, or computer for FREE—even while they are away from campus for the summer.

Your student may use ALC for common conditions such as sinus infections, fevers, allergies, and flu symptoms. They can also meet with a licensed mental health provider when dealing with symptoms of depression, anxiety, stress, and grief.

Remind your student this incredible telehealth benefit is available to use by visiting Austin College | Telehealth (myahpcare.com) and using the ALC User Guide for help or information about services offered through AcademicLiveCare.

Student Service Key: ALC
Student Coupon Code valid until 8/31/2024: ALCROOS23
For technical support, contact 866.882-0343.

**Is Summer School Right for Your ‘Roo?**

College is not a race, but sometimes students need to close a gap or want to get ahead. Austin College offers online, synchronous courses in two sessions over the summer. Registration for Session I continues through June 6; registration for Session II continues through July 5. If your
student is interested in up to two summer courses, they should contact their faculty mentor via email to initiate the registration process. For more information about courses and dates, go to https://www.austincollege.edu/academics/summer-term/. For specific questions, contact Director of Summer Term Dr. Matt Findley.

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**Registration for 2025 Travel JanTerm is Still Open**

Travel JanTerm 2024 course registration will remain open during the summer for students who are not on campus. However, the following process must be followed by your student—in this exact order—to be successful:

1. Students must receive an email approval from their mentor AND the JanTerm course instructor to register for the course. These approvals must be forwarded to Marla Light at mlight@austincollege.edu and Tiffany Medaris at tmedaris@austincollege.edu in the Business Office;

2. Students will receive a Financial Obligation Form from the Business Office by email, which they must sign, scan, and return by email;

3. Students will pay the $250 course deposit over the phone at 903.813.2448; summer hours in the Business Office are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As travel JanTerm course enrollments are limited, it is vital that students follow the procedures to ensure they can successfully register for a course. For any questions about travel JanTerm, students can contact janterm@austincollege.edu.

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**Extra news you can use!**

Q. Do you have any tips to help students and parents adjust to being together again for the summer?

A: Have an early and honest conversation about these important things:

**Who’s doing what?** Your student is a welcome member of the household—not the guest of honor. They might need a reminder about the chores they should handle for themselves and for the good of the household.

**Who’s going where?** As a young adult at college, your student has had complete freedom around their coming and going. So, if you have expectations about how early and late people leave the house and who comes and goes with them, you must say so. Don’t be harsh, but do be clear.

**What are your hopes and dreams?** What a nice opportunity to listen to your student’s thoughts about time away from class. College is challenging—summer break doesn’t have to be.