

From: [Southern Connecticut State University](#)
To: [Rizza, Salvatore A.](#)
Subject: Week 11 II Advising and Registration II Thanksgiving Break
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:09:23 PM

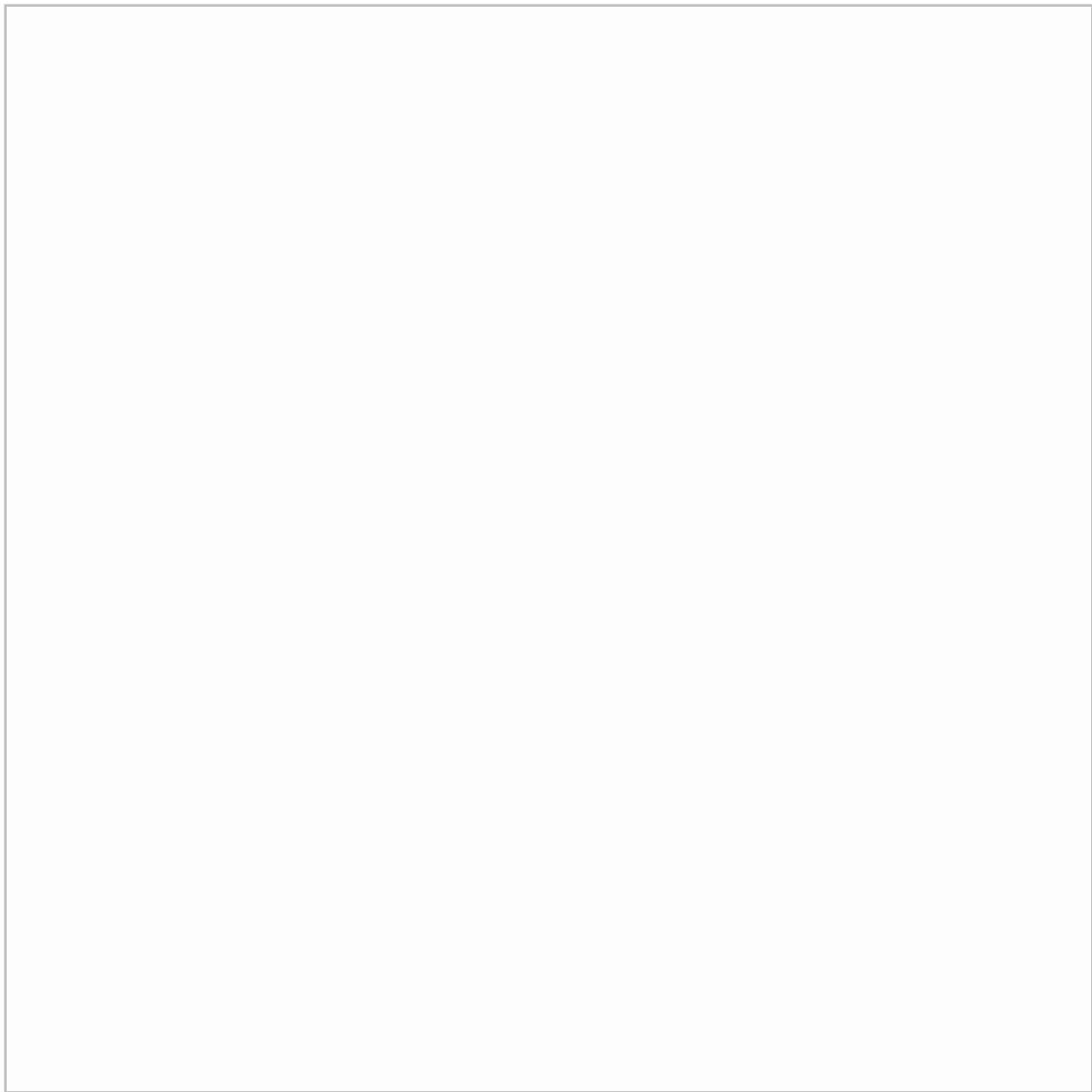


Family Update: November 4, 2025

This email contains the following:

Message from the Director of Orientation,
Transition & Family Engagement

- Weekly Feature
 - Message from Harry Twyman, Director of Academic Advising regarding Advising and Spring 2026 Course Registration
 - News and Notes
 - First-Generation College Day
 - Email (sent to residential students) regarding Thanksgiving Break
 - This Week at Southern
 - Resources
-



Dear Families,

We've reached **Week 11 of the semester**, one of the most important times of

the academic year. As we move into November, our students are entering a very busy and pivotal stretch as **advising and registration for Spring 2026** have officially begun! This is a crucial moment for students to connect with their academic advisors, review their progress, and plan for the semester ahead. Registering early ensures that they secure the courses they need and stay on track toward graduation.

This week also holds special meaning as we celebrate **National First-Generation College Week**. At Southern, we're proud that more than a third of our student body identifies as first-generation. As a proud first-generation college graduate, I'm continually inspired by how this shared experience connects so many of us across generations and communities. This week recognizes their perseverance, courage, and the transformative impact of higher education for their families and communities.

In this email, you'll find:

- A **message from Harry Twyman, Director of Academic Advising**, highlighting key steps and dates for course registration.
- A **message from President Sandy Bulmer** celebrating our first-generation students and outlining opportunities to participate in campus events.
- **Important information from the Registrar's Office** regarding spring and winter registration, and **details about Thanksgiving recess**.
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As always, thank you for staying engaged and supporting your student during this busy and exciting time. Encouraging them to meet with their advisor and register on time makes a world of difference in their success and confidence.

Please let us know how we can help!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sal Rizza

Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement



Message from Harry Twyman, Director of Academic Advising

Hello families!

My name is Harry Twyman and I'm the Director of Academic Advising at Southern Connecticut State University. My team and I work with students to explore majors, plan courses and degree paths, and navigate university policies. Our goal is to help students feel confident, stay on track, and make steady progress toward graduation. You can learn more about advising [here](#). Please read below for a few important notes regarding course registration for next semester.

SPRING REGISTRATION: WHY PRIORITY MATTERS

Even though it feels like the fall semester just started, we are already helping students get ready for **spring 2026 course registration**. Each student has a specific **priority registration date and time**, which is their first opportunity to register for classes.

Why register on your priority date?

1. Class seats are limited. Waiting too long can mean a student may not get into a required course.
2. Missing required courses can delay graduation.
3. Students can adjust their schedule later if needed, but registering early gives the best chance to get the courses they need.
4. Priority registration dates and times can be found [here](#).

STEP 1: MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR

The first step is for your student to **meet with their assigned Academic Advisor**. This meeting is required to receive the **registration PIN**, which is essentially a student's "ticket" to registering during their priority date. During the meeting, your student's advisor will check in on how the semester is going, discuss academic and career plans, and review which courses to take in the spring.

Students should have received an email from their advisor to schedule this appointment. Please encourage your student to **schedule and attend this meeting as soon as possible**. Without the PIN, they cannot register, so this is the top priority right now.

STEP 2: REGISTER ON YOUR PRIORITY DATE

Once the advising meeting is complete and the PIN is received, students should **register for classes as soon as their priority date and time arrives**. This ensures they secure the courses they need and avoid delays in their academic progress.

NEED HELP?

We know registering for classes can feel tricky or confusing. That is exactly why advisors are here. Please remind your student that their advisor is ready to guide them through the process!

Students can find their assigned advisor in their [Banner Student account](#). If a student does not have an advisor listed or is having trouble contacting theirs,

reach out to the [Department Chair of their major](#).

If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at twymanh1@southernct.edu. Thank you for supporting your student through this important process. Meeting with their advisor and registering promptly helps them stay on track and confident as they move toward graduation.

Warmly,

Harry Twyman

Director of Academic Advising

Southern Connecticut State University

Information from Registrar's Office Regarding Course Registration Dates:

Registration's Almost Here: Spring and Winter!

Get ready to make the most out of your winter! Whether you're looking to round out your fall semester or get a head start on spring, winter registration opens for all students on November 3, 2025, at 8AM.

Prepare for Spring Registration

Use the [Registration Checklist](#) to review how to plan your schedule, obtain your pin, and check for any holds that may prevent registration. Check your specific [registration date and time here](#).

- November 3rd Graduates, post-baccalaureates, and seniors accepted to a graduate program
- November 4th Seniors
- November 10th Juniors
- November 12th Sophomores
- November 18th Continuing Freshmen
- November 19th non-degree seeking graduates
- November 24th non-degree seeking undergraduates

Academic Advising Appointments

- **Undergraduates:** You will meet with your advisor for course registration advising and to receive your registration PIN. If you have been not contacted by your advisor/department, please reach out to them ([who is my advisor?](#)) or the department chairperson for your major directly for assistance.
- **Graduates:** For course registration questions, please reach out to your graduate program coordinator or advisor for support.



Message from Dr. Sandy Bulmer, Interim President:

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

On November 6, I invite you to celebrate National First-Generation College Day, a day close to my heart as both your interim president and a proud first-

generation student myself.

Ours is a community enriched by a large population of first-generation students. In fact, this academic year, more than a third of Southern's student body -- both undergraduate and graduate -- identify as first-gen. National First-Generation College Day pays tribute to the extraordinary achievements and resilience of students who are the first in their families to pursue higher education. For many first-generation students, this path is marked by perseverance and the ability to overcome challenges others may take for granted. These students carry with them their dreams and the hopes of their families and communities, making their accomplishments even more inspiring.

On Thursday, November 6th, I invite you to:

- Attend an inspiring **keynote talk** – “**Processing Pain: Turning Lived Experiences Into Legacy**” – with award-winning journalist, publicist, and Southern alum Stacy Graham-Hunt, '06 (11:00am – 12:15pm, ASC Theater)
- Indulge in an amazing **Campus Lunch Celebration** (12:30pm – 2:30pm, Engleman B121)
- Join an **Interactive Workshop** – “**Writing the Book That’s Been Living Inside You**” with guest speaker Stacy Graham-Hunt, '06 (3:30pm – 5:00pm, Engleman B121)

More information about these activities [can be found here](#). Your presence and active participation will send a clear message that the aspirations of our first-generation students are to be celebrated.

If you are first-gen yourself, you’re invited to [share your story here](#). We would love to hear from you! If you're not first-gen, you can still join in the day's festivities to show that you are part of a community that is helping to make our first-gen students' academic journeys as successful as possible.

Thank you for your dedication to making education accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Sandy

Dr. Sandy Bulmer

Interim President

Email from Residence Life regarding Thanksgiving Break:

Dear Owls,

The holiday season is upon us!

The university will close for Thanksgiving break at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, November 25th, 2025. Normal university operations will resume on Monday, December 1st, 2025.

The Office of Residence Life offers students the option to remain on campus during Thanksgiving Break. Please see below for the available Thanksgiving Break housing options:

- **Entire Break:** Tuesday, November 25th through Sunday, November 30th.
- **Custom Dates of Stay:** Select the dates you will be staying on campus between Tuesday, November 25th through Sunday, November 30th.

If you plan to stay for the break, please complete the Thanksgiving Break Housing Form, indicating one of the above break housing options. The Thanksgiving Break Housing Form is now live in your MyHousing and closes at noon on Monday, November 24th.

To reach the form:

- Log in to your Banner Student account.
- Select *MyHousing*.
- Next to the Residence Life logo in the top left-hand corner, click on the three lines.
- Select *Applications*.
- Click *Thanksgiving Break Housing Form*.

Before You Leave for the Break:

- Please be aware that your Residence Hall Director and Resident Advisors will be conducting health and safety room inspections the week of November 24th.
- If you wish to report a maintenance issue, fill out the [online form](#).

If you are leaving for the break, please do the following to prepare your room:

Take home any valuables or anything that you will need (such as medications) during Thanksgiving break. Please understand that housing and facilities staff may enter rooms to complete work orders.

- Clean your room and take any garbage to the dumpsters adjacent to your residence hall.
- Remove and discard any perishable items from your refrigerator that might spoil during Thanksgiving break.
- Lock your windows and close your curtains/blinds.
- Unplug everything within your room except fish tanks, your cable modem, and your refrigerator.
- Make sure your room door is closed and locked.

If you are staying for this break, please be aware of the following:

- Meal plans will not be active during the break, and food services will not be available.
- Please be sure to carry your student ID to ensure access to your building because the front desks are not staffed during this time.
- You must abide by all the regulations that are contained in the Academic Year Housing Agreement and the Guide to Living on Campus. Please be aware that failure to follow these rules and regulations will result in disciplinary action and possibly removal from housing.
- All trash must be discarded in the dumpster located adjacent to your residence hall. You may not discard trash in the utility room during this period. Additionally, should you use common area lounges, kitchens, etc., please remember to clean up after yourself, as custodial staff is not in the residence halls daily during break.
- Please be aware that you are **not permitted to have any overnight guests** during the break period. Additionally, no guests from outside of your residence hall may visit unless they are also approved to live on campus during the break.
- **Alcohol is not permitted in the residence halls during intersession breaks.**
- The whiteboard in the lobby of your residence hall will note the Residence Hall Director and staff member on duty each day; please contact this individual to report any problems, concerns, or issues that arise during the break.
- If you see someone who does not belong in the residence hall and/or something that looks suspicious, **please do not hesitate to contact the staff member on duty, your Residence Hall Director, or the University**

Police at 203-392-0186. During the break period, it is everyone's responsibility to work to ensure that our residence halls remain safe and secure living environments.

A Note About Packages During the Break:

Please note that packages delivered during the break period will be held at Facilities until the week of December 1st. If you need to receive items during the break, please ensure that you update your delivery address to your break address/location. We also recommend pausing or delaying deliveries until after the break, if possible.

If you have any questions regarding Thanksgiving break, please do not hesitate to contact your Resident Advisor, Residence Hall Director, or the Office of Residence Life at (203) 392-5870 or send us an email at reslife@southernct.edu. We are open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

We hope you all have a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving break, and best wishes for the remainder of the semester!

Sincerely,

The Office of Residence Life

Office of Residence Life | Southern Connecticut State University

501 Crescent Street | New Haven, CT 06515

T: 203.392.5870 **F:** 203.392.5867 **E:** reslife@southernct.edu

W: www.southernct.edu/residencelife



***Students receive an email on Monday detailing the week's featured events.
Below are the events from Wednesday to Sunday:***

Wednesday, November 5th

8:30am-3:30pm

**“Co-constructing Educational Integration for African Immigrant and Refugee
Students in Higher Education”**

ASC Theater

Keynote address by Her Excellency Robinah Kakonge, Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uganda to the United

States of America and Non-Resident Ambassador to Latin American and Caribbean States. See full schedule [HERE](#)

Hosted by: Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), a SCSU Faculty Development Grant (FDG), and the SCSU School of Social Work

12:00pm-1:15pm

Opioid Overdose Response Training

ENGB121

Help save a life! Please join us for a free opioid overdose training provided by the New Haven Health Department.

- Learn about state and local substance use trends
- Fentanyl awareness and training
- How to identify, prevent, and respond to an opioid overdose
- How to access and administer Naloxone

Each participant will receive one free dose of Naloxone for attending the training.

Please RSVP to keisers3@southernct.edu to confirm your place for lunch!

Hosted by: Alcohol and Other Drug Services

12:00pm-2:00pm

Munch and Mingle

Buley 438

Get to know fellow transfers over games like Uno, Monopoly, etc. and snacks.

Hosted by: Orientation, Transition and Family Engagement

1:00pm-2:00pm

First Generation Scholars Support Group

UAP - Engleman B018

If you are first in your family to attend college and are looking for a supportive community, this group provides a space to discuss the unique challenges that you face as a first-generation college student!

Hosted by: Wellbeing Center

1:00pm-4:00pm

Pumpkin Smash

Academic Quad

Get ready to take out some fall stress the fun way! Join us for our Pumpkin Smash Fundraiser, a one-of-a-kind event where you can smash pumpkins for a

good cause.

Hosted by: Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity

2:00pm-3:00pm

Transitions Support Group

Engleman B121

A counseling group meant for students who transfer students, or any students who are going through a transition who need some support! Come build community and make connections with others who are experiencing a similar journey navigating college.

Hosted by: Counseling Services

2:00pm-4:00pm

Phonebanking with SISTAS

ASC 217 - The Nest

SISTAS is collaborating with Planned Parenthood to host a Phone Banking Event as part of a statewide advocacy push to mobilize students in calling Governor Lamont and their state legislators in support of Planned Parenthood's priorities. This phone bank is part of Planned Parenthood Votes! CT & RI's larger effort to urge elected officials to protect access to reproductive health care. By leading this event, we are helping amplify the voices of young people and community members who care about reproductive freedom and demonstrating the collective power of organized action. We will also be providing food to those who come and support!

Hosted by: Sisters in School Together Achieving Success

7:00pm-9:00pm

Custom Charms and Cases

FPS

Ever wanted to customize your own phone case with decorations and charms? Programs Council has you covered! Whether you want something bold or simple, come bedazzle a case with different charms, felts, and figurines that represents you!

Hosted by: Programs Council

8:00pm-10:00pm

Music Club Movie Night with Korean Club

ASC 217 - The Nest

Come watch K-Pop Demon Hunters with the Music Club and the Korean Club!
Hosted by: Korean Club, Music Club

8:00pm-11:45pm

Noche De Gala

Purchase Ticket [HERE](#)

Get ready for an unforgettable night at our annual **Noche De Gala**! Celebrate with us through music, dance, and community as we honor the rich cultures of Ecuador and Peru. Grab a friend, dress up, and dance the night away with us!

Guests are allowed. **Tickets available only on Marketplace.**

Hosted by: OLAS

Thursday, November 6th

9:00am-10:00am

Commuter Breakfast

ASC 217 - The Nest

Come find our CAs around campus to get a free breakfast sandwich! You can always find where we are on our instagram story: [scsucommuterservices](#).

Hosted by: Commuter Services

11:00am-12:15pm

First-Gen Day Celebration: Keynote Talk - "Processing Pain: Turning Lived Experiences Into Legacy"

ASC Theater

Whether you're the first in your family to pursue higher education or figuring out how to tell your story, this session will remind you: your voice is valid, your story matters, and your presence is powerful!

In this inspiring keynote, award-winning journalist, publicist, and Southern alum Stacy Graham-Hunt, '06, shares how she turned personal pain into published work, public platforms, and a powerful career rooted in storytelling and community. As a first-gen college graduate, Stacy knows what it means to navigate uncharted territory and how to transform lived experiences into legacy work.

Includes a book raffle + opportunity to connect with the speaker

Come for the truth-telling. Stay for the transformation—and maybe leave with a free signed copy of Stacy's book.

Open to students, faculty, staff, and alumni!

Hosted by: University Access Programs

12:00pm-1:00pm

PB&J Thursday

Engleman Hall B121

Head to the breezeway outside Engleman B121 for ProCon's PB&J Thursday! We are your lunch providers every Thursday as we provide snacks, drinks, and most importantly, PB&J sandwiches!

Hosted by: Programs Council

12:30pm-2:30pm

First-Gen Day Celebration: Campus Lunch Celebration

ENGB121

Enjoy a special midday feast where community, connection, and great vibes come together! Indulge in an amazing lunch, plus participate in raffles, win prizes, and take part in surprise activities that will keep the energy high and the smiles going!

Hosted by: University Access Programs

2:30pm-3:30pm

CV, Resume, & Cover Letter Workshop

ENGD055A

Join Psychology Club & Psi Chi to learn tips for creating an optimal CV, resume, and cover letter for graduate school applications. Your future career starts here!

Hosted by: Psi Chi – International Honor Society for Psychology Majors and the Psychology Club

3:30pm-5:00pm

First-Gen Day Celebration: Interactive Workshop - Writing the Book That's Been Living Inside You

ENGB121

What if your hardest moments held the key to your greatest impact? If you've ever thought, "One day I'll write a book about this..."? This is your invitation to start.

In this interactive workshop, author and storytelling coach Stacy Graham-Hunt will help you unlock the personal stories, memories, and messages you've been holding onto and begin shaping them into meaningful written work. You'll explore writing prompts, develop your core themes, and learn the first steps to

turn your lived experience into essays, books, or personal statements. Whether you're dreaming of publishing or just writing an essay, this session will give you the tools (and the nudge) to begin. Bring a journal or laptop, an open heart, and the story that's been waiting to be told.

Hosted by: University Access Programs

8:00pm-9:00pm

Guess That Song

Virtual: Access Event [HERE](#)

You think you know your songs?!? Well come and join Procon for an evening of guess that song. Hear the line or tune, quickly press the correct answer to win your way to the top for the chance to win some amazing prizes.

Hosted by: Programs Council

Friday, November 7th

12:45pm-1:45pm

Mindful Meditation Series

Fitness Center

Join APRN Nurse Linda from Health Services, for her mindfulness meditation series and take an hour to decompress and reconnect ♀ Embrace the power of stillness and find your calm

Hosted by: Health Services

2:00pm-4:00pm

Folio November Open Mic

ASC 302 (Fireplace Lounge)

Join us for an afternoon of poetry, prose, and music in the Adanti Fireside lounge! Refreshments will be provided.

Hosted by: Folio

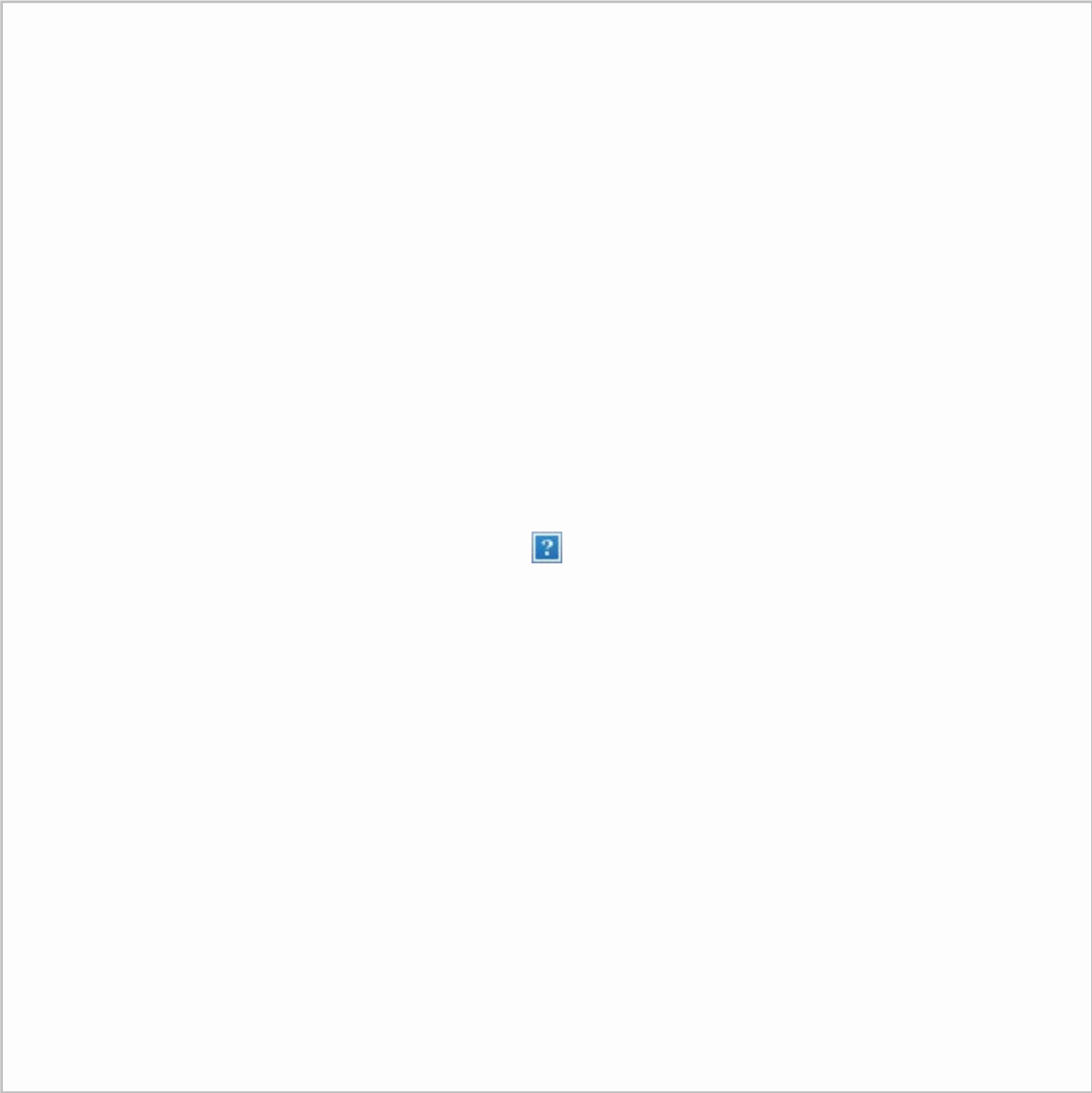
4:30pm-6:00pm

Shabbat

EN D227

Come join SCSU Hillel for Shabbat every Friday night during the semester!

Hosted by: Hillel - Jewish Students Organization



Helpful Links- these are a number of helpful links that we have gathered specifically for parents/families that will be helpful now and in the future.

Resources- these is another general page filled with links that may be helpful!

Residence Life- with so many questions regarding residence life, this may be a great place to find information!

Advising- information regarding academic advising.



orientation@southernct.edu

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Mailin

