

Rizza, Salvatore A.

From: Rizza, Salvatore A.
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 12:14 PM
To: families@lists.southernct.edu
Subject: Parent/Family Update: : March 31, 2021
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; Spring Food Drive.png

Dear Parents and Families,

We hope this email finds you all well!

Below are emails that students have received recently.

1. Message from Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
2. **COVID Vaccine Information for Students- IMPORTANT!!!**
3. Spring 2021: Grade Option Updates
4. New Funding available to cover costs of Food, Internet
5. Food Pantry Food Drive
6. Student Government Association/Class Government Elections: Fall 2021
7. Campus COVID Update
8. Resources

Message from Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

Happy Spring!!

As we have now entered the 2nd half of the semester, a few things become increasingly important particularly as it pertains to a student's academic progress. As you'll see in one of the emails below, students have many options regarding their Spring 2021 grades. We encourage you to engage your students in a conversation around their academic progress to ensure they are making strategic choices regarding their courses. Additionally, students should be in the midst of the academic advising process in preparation of registering for their Fall 2021 courses. If a student has not met with or scheduled a meeting with their advisor, they should do so as soon as possible.

Lastly, please pay particular attention to the COVID vaccine information for students. Many family members have asked if the institution will provide vaccines to students. As you'll see below, we hope to be able to do so in early May!

We thank you and as always, we are here to help!

Sincerely,

Sal Rizza
Southern Connecticut State University
Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
Phone: (203) 392-5189

From the Dean of Student Affairs- COVID Vaccine Update for Students

Dear Students,

Governor Ned Lamont has announced that as of this Thursday (April 1), COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all individuals aged 16 and older who live, work, or attend school in Connecticut.

As part of this rollout, the state has committed to providing Johnson & Johnson vaccines to Connecticut's colleges and universities by early May, if not sooner. This means that Southern will be able to host vaccine clinics on campus for our students, prior to the end of the semester.

As of Thursday, students are also eligible to register for a vaccination appointment through local public health departments, pharmacies, and other providers. Students who wish to schedule an appointment independently should visit the [CT Vaccine Portal](#), identify nearby vaccination sites and follow the registration process. A student ID is sufficient to demonstrate in-state eligibility to receive a vaccine.

Our hope is to make the COVID-19 vaccine available to as many Southern students as possible, as quickly as possible. In order for the University to return to, and maintain, an in-person learning environment, it is crucial that every member of our campus community is vaccinated.

Please check your email for further information about vaccination clinics on campus and a panel program to learn more about the ins and outs of COVID vaccination, coming soon! If you have any questions about the vaccines or vaccination process, feel free to reach out to the COVID Coordinator at covid-19coordinator@southernct.edu.

Sincerely,

Jules Tetreault
Dean of Students

From the Registrar's Office- Spring 2021 Grade Options

Dear Students,

The faculty and administration at Southern recently approved changes to the Pass-Fail, Incomplete, and Withdrawal policies for Spring 2021 to provide you with every opportunity to achieve successful completion of your courses this semester, stay on track towards your graduation, and reduce the level of stress you are likely experiencing.

There is time for you to carefully consider and evaluate your progress in courses before deciding to request any of these options. It is extremely important to work with your advisor to discuss how these options might impact you.

- **Pass-Fail Option:** If you are struggling to perform as well as you would like in a course, you may consider changing your grading option to pass-fail for one course this semester. This is not a decision to be made lightly or quickly. We encourage you to first work with your instructors to discuss your progress towards course completion. Please remember, however, that choosing pass-fail does not mean you can stop attending or engaging in the course; failure to participate academically can result in a grade of 'F' due to stop out. To learn more about the policy visit [Pass-Fail Option for Spring 2021](#); some course exclusions may apply.

You must consult with your advisor **no later than Friday, May 7, 2021**. After consulting with your advisor, they will initiate a pass/fail contract for you to accept and submit **by the deadline Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:59 PM**.

- **Incomplete Option:** After discussing your progress towards course completion with your instructor, and if the instructor has determined that you have a valid reason for not meeting a particular requirement prior to the end of the semester, you may request an [Incomplete Contract](#) to allow you more time to successfully complete the course.

Withdrawal Option: If you are not able to successfully complete a course this semester, you may decide to withdraw from it. This is a very difficult decision to make, as you will not receive a grade or credit for the course (a “W” will be recorded next to the course on your transcript and will be counted in the Satisfactory Academic Progress calculation for determining future financial aid eligibility). It is highly recommended you talk to your advisor or to someone in the Academic Advising Center before taking this action.

You may withdraw from a course online in [Banner Web](#) >> Student Services >> Registration **by the deadline Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:59 PM.**

Additional Academic Advising Support

Students are required to communicate with and get the signature of their assigned academic advisor to request a pass-fail. The [Academic Advising Centers \(AACs\)](#) are available to provide supplemental support around these important conversations. Students can visit the [Academic Advising Website](#) for more information.

Sincerely,

The Registrar’s Office

Southern Connecticut State University
(Hours) Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Tel) 203-392-5301
(Email) Registrar@SouthernCT.edu
(Web) OneStop.SouthernCT.edu



From the Dean of Student Affairs- Expanded Financial Support

Dear Students,

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Federal Government has announced two new and expanded support programs, providing food assistance and subsidizing the cost of internet usage (see details re. this at the bottom of this letter).

College students now have additional eligibility to access the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP benefits (formerly called Food Stamps). As an eligible financial aid student at Southern during the 2020-2021 academic year, you may be eligible to access SNAP benefits if you have been enrolled at least half time and you:

- Have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of zero from your 2020-2021 FAFSA; or
- Are eligible to participate in the Federal Work-Study program (even if you do not have a job).

SNAP benefits can help you cover your food expenses while you are in college and, due to the pandemic, everyone who qualifies for SNAP receives the maximum amount for their household size. For someone who purchases and prepares their food on their own, the SNAP benefit is \$234 per month.

Eligible students can use SNAP to buy food through an EBT card (like a debit card) at supermarkets, local groceries & corner stores, and at local farmers’ markets. In fact, you can double the value of your P-EBT SNAP benefits at farmers’ markets participating in [CT Fresh Match](#). If you don’t want to go out to purchase your food, SNAP benefits can also be used online at ALDI (via Instacart), Amazon, ShopRite, and Walmart.

To apply, go to the DSS [ConneCT Client Portal](#) and click “Apply for Benefits.” You may also apply by filling out a [paper application](#), and mailing it to DSS. And you’ll need to upload or send a copy of your College Financing Plan, available within [Banner Self-Service](#).

If you are a member of a household already receiving SNAP, please submit this letter to DSS so you may be added to your household's case. This could increase your household benefit amount.

To learn more about the SNAP Program in Connecticut, including income and eligibility requirements, go to the [Department of Social Services’ SNAP website](#), or call the DSS Benefit Center at 1-855-CONNECT (1-855-626-6632).

Also, please remember that Southern now has a [permanent food pantry](#) open seven days a week in the back of the Wintergreen Building, open to all enrolled students. To schedule an appointment, email foodpantry@southernct.edu or call (203) 392-8191. You’ll find updates on Instagram (scsufoodpantry) or Facebook (SCSU Food Pantry).

Another assistance program available to eligible students has been provided by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which recently announced financial credits for those struggling to pay for internet services during the pandemic.

Under the FCC Lifeline Program, a household is eligible to receive a \$50 per month credit toward internet access if one member of the household received a federal Pell Grant during the 2020/2021 award year, or had a 2020 annual income of less than \$99,000 for single filers (\$198,000 for joint tax filers).

This program was just announced, so the application process has not yet been published. Please check <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit> for updates on how to apply. Application information will be posted on that page as soon as it is available.

Southern will soon be launching a social support program to help you register for and access these assistance programs. In the meantime, if we can help you with registration or otherwise address meeting your basic needs, please send an email to deanofstudents@southernct.edu or call (203) 392-5556.

Sincerely,

Jules Tetreault
Dean of Students

Food Pantry Drive- Picture Attached

This spring, **The SCSU Food Pantry** is hosting a food drive with **The Swimming & Diving Team** to support our mission to help meet the needs of students who are food insecure! Recent studies have shown that about 30% of our student population, do not know where their next meal is coming from. Please join in this effort to support our students.

Since opening in *October* we have distributed more than *11,000 lbs.* of food. Our goal this spring is to keep our momentum going and to continue providing to our Southern community. All donations received will be available for students to access immediately.

The Food Drive will be taking place on **Sunday April 11th, 2021 from 11am to 2 pm**. Drop offs will take place in front of the Wintergreen Building on campus. You will be able to loop around the driveway where our volunteers will be ready to take the items from your cars.

Please forward this email to your friends, families, and colleagues and encourage them to help us reach this goal. Thank you for your continued support of your fellow Owls.

We hope to see you there!

Run for SGA and Class Government. Represent the voice of the student body and your class.

[Click Here](#) or on the flier to fill out the application.

Applications are due on OwlConnect by **Friday, April 9th at noon**.

If you have any questions please email Denise Bentley-Drobish (drobishdrod1@southernct.edu) or Madison Miceli (micelim2@southernct.edu)

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
ELECTIONS
SPRING 2021



SUBMIT YOUR CANDIDACY FOR A POSITION WITH
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AND/OR CLASS GOVERNMENT
(CLASS OF 2022, 2023)

- Advocate for your peers
- Participate in decision making
- Serve on University-wide committees
- Lobby legislators
- Engage in community and civic service
- Network with faculty, staff and students
- Program for your peers



HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

CANDIDACY FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE HOME PAGE OF OWLCONNECT
MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH OWLCONNECT BY NOON ON FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH

If you have any questions regarding the election process, please contact Denise Bentley-Drobish, Director of Student Involvement and Development at bentleydrod1@southernct.edu, or Madison Miceli, Board of Elections (BOE) Chairperson at micelim2@southernct.edu



CAMPUS COVID-19 DASHBOARD

The University's COVID-19 Dashboard is updated regularly throughout the spring semester, providing cumulative and current data related to the prevalence of COVID-19 within our campus community. More than 1,200 residential students, athletes and other selected groups are being tested on a weekly basis. You can see the latest figures [here](#). Please use the [Self-Report Form](#) to notify the COVID Coordinator if you are COVID positive or have been exposed to someone who has COVID. For any other questions about reporting, please email the [SCSU COVID-19 Coordinator](#).



VACCINATION UPDATE FOR STUDENTS

Governor Ned Lamont has announced that as of this Thursday (April 1), COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all individuals aged 16 and older who live, work, or attend school in Connecticut.

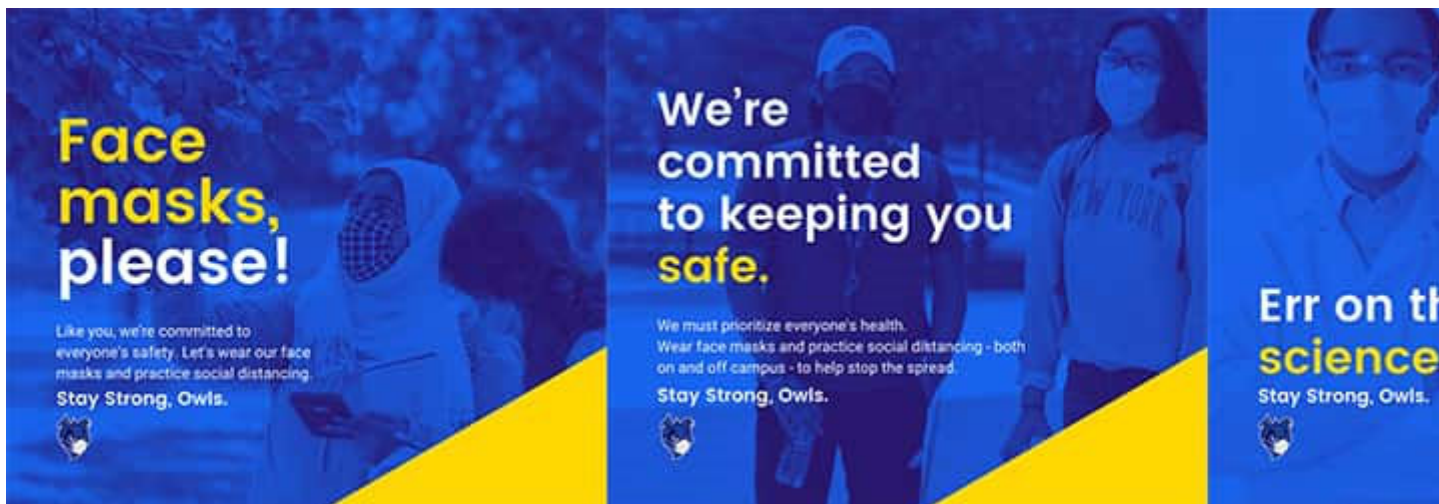
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- Jules Tetreault
Dean of Students



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about any of these items, or other aspects of the University's reopening plans, you may submit them here or visit Southern's [Reopening 2021](#) website.

Resources

We would also like to provide a number of links which have really good information that answers many of the questions you may have.

Helpful Links- <https://inside.southernct.edu/parent-family/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- <https://inside.southernct.edu/inside-southern>, these is another general page filled with links that may be helpful!

Reopening <https://inside.southernct.edu/reopening>, this provides information on the reopening of campus for the fall semester.

Residence Life- <https://inside.southernct.edu/residence-life>, with so many questions regarding residence life, this may be a great place to find information!

Advising- <https://inside.southernct.edu/advising>, information regarding academic advising.
