

Owl Family Update: Finals Week

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To:families@lists.southernct.edu <families@lists.southernct.edu>

Dear Owl Families,

We hope you are all well!

In this email you will find:

1. Message from the Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
2. Message from President Smith
3. Residence Halls Closing
4. Resources

Message from the Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

Dear Owl Families,

The final week of the semester is upon us!

Over the past few months, students have enjoyed full orientation sessions, lively activities, and engaging classes. While many students are thriving, experiencing success and finding their place we know that others continue to struggle. Over the past few months, we've spoken to so many students and families. We've heard so many stories. While some may be tales of procrastination, laziness or negligence there are far more including the challenges of managing emotions in a new environment, lack of basic needs, or incredible self-doubt. As Fall 2023 final grades will be available at the end of next week (via Bannerweb), it is important to help students process their semester as they complete their finals this week.

We would like to offer a few thoughts on how to frame this past semester:

1. Start with the positive. A great question to ask is, "What went best this semester?"
2. Celebrate! Be sure to acknowledge the small success as well as the major accomplishments. That may be a hard-earned "C" in a challenging subject, joining a club/organization or securing a fantastic internship.
3. Sometimes, best laid plans fail us and students may not have had the semester they would have liked. Asking a question such as, "what could have been done differently?" may prompt a fruitful conversation.
4. Move On and Plan Ahead- Considering what has been learned about successes and challenges, look at the next semester and prepare for a great Spring 2024.

Please know that if you or your students would like support in processing the semester or planning for next, our office would be happy to provide support.

Important Dates:

1. **Payment Deadline** for the Spring 2024 is December 15th (<https://inside.southernct.edu/onestop/bill-payment/bill-pay>).
2. Students should have **registered for their Spring 2024** courses at this point in time. *New incoming students follow a different protocol.*
3. **Final Grades** will be released by 5pm on December 22nd. Prior to that day, we will share some tips on how to celebrate and support students especially for those that are in their first semester.

We wish you students luck and please feel free to contact our office if we can be of support to you.

Sincerely,

Sal Rizza

Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

From the
Office of the President
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Southern Community,

Greetings! I hope this message finds you rested and confident as we head into the final stretch of the fall academic semester. Whether you are scholars, faculty, or staff, finals week marks the last step between you and a well-earned respite with friends and family. I hope that as you look back on the previous three months, it is with a strong sense of accomplishment and a great deal of pride in your efforts. Congratulations on staying the course.

It has been my pleasure to work alongside you in my first semester as your Interim President. I have enjoyed learning the familiar but unique rhythm of Southern's academic cycle. Attending university events and witnessing your passion and commitment to your work and your studies has been especially rewarding. Make no mistake, the Southern community is both dedicated and compassionate – two key qualities that define our institution.

As we can all attest – everything is possible when we work together with an ethos of care and a strong, shared purpose. So, in that spirit, I wish you a successful end to the semester and, looking forward, I welcome your energy and best ideas as we meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,
Dr. D

Dr. Dwayne Smith
Interim President
501 Crescent Street EN A211
New Haven, CT 06515-1355
Tel:203-392-5250
Fax:203-392-5255
Email: dsmith@southernct.edu



From Residence Life regarding Winter Closing

Good Afternoon Residential Students,

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break and have returned to campus rested and ready to finish your semester strong! With the end of the semester rapidly approaching, we wanted to provide you with some important information regarding winter break closing. Please read the information below carefully and reach out to your Resident Advisor or Residence Hall Director with any questions or concerns.

Winter Break Closing Information for all Residents:

- **You must vacate your hall on the day of your last final exam.**
- The deadline for requests to stay late and the winter break housing application is Sunday, December 10th, 2023. (*See below: Winter Break Housing or Staying Beyond Closing*).
- You are required to prepare your room for the break and check out with a staff member. (*See below: Closing Instructions: Returning to the Same Room*).
- Residence Hall Directors and Resident Advisors will be inspecting your room/apartment after you leave for health and safety reasons and to ensure it is prepared for the break.
- If you are changing rooms or not returning for the spring semester, you must remove all your belongings, return your key, and completely check out of your residence hall with a staff member. (*See below: Closing Instructions: Not Returning or Changing Rooms*).
- If you wish to report a maintenance issue, please complete the [online maintenance request form](#).
- Quiet Hours begin at 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th, and remain in effect throughout the end of the semester.
- Overnight guests are not permitted starting on Thursday, December 7th throughout the end of the semester.
- Move-in for Spring 2024 is scheduled for January 16th, 2024, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Additional Time for Closing:

If you require additional time (up until noon on Saturday, December 16th) to vacate your residence hall due to a late final exam or extenuating circumstances, please submit your request by completing the Winter Break Housing Application and select the option to check out by noon on Saturday, December 16th. The Winter Break Housing Application can be found in your MyHousing and closes at 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10th, 2023.

Winter Break Housing:

Any resident registered for spring 2024 classes and placed in housing for spring 2024 is eligible to remain on campus during the winter break. To request to stay, please complete the Winter Break Housing application in your MyHousing by 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10th. The fee for winter break housing is \$40.00 per night.

To reach the application:

- 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 "Winter Break Housing".

Please note: If you choose winter break housing, you will remain in your current housing assignment for winter break. *If you will be changing rooms for the spring semester, you will be relocating to your new spring assignment on Monday, December 18th between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.*

Closing Instructions: Returning to the Same Room:

Please make sure the following tasks are completed before leaving for the semester break.

- Take home any valuables or items you will need during the break. You will not have access to your room over the break and the university is not responsible for items lost or stolen over the break.
- **Take out all garbage to the dumpster adjacent to your residence hall.**
- Lock all windows and close all curtains and blinds.
- Unplug every electrical unit in your room/apartment except for refrigerators, cable boxes, modems, and aquariums. *Please ensure all refrigerators, cable boxes, and modems are left plugged in
 - Clean the inside of your refrigerator and the inside of your microwave.
- If you wish to report a maintenance issue, please complete the [online maintenance request form](#).
- **Complete the closing form posted on your room door and be sure to check out with a Residence Life staff member before you leave.**

- Please follow any additional closing procedures set forth by your residence hall director.

Closing Instructions: Not Returning or Changing Rooms for the Spring:

If you are not returning to housing for the spring 2024 semester or have requested a room change for the spring, please complete the following steps at checkout:

- Remove all belongings from the room.
- Clean the room thoroughly. Double-check your closet (both inside and on top of the closet), dresser drawers, and desk drawers to make sure you have packed up all your belongings.
- Take out all garbage to the dumpster adjacent to your residence hall.
- Lock all windows and close all curtains and blinds.
- Unplug every electrical unit in your room/apartment except for refrigerators, cable boxes, modems, and aquariums. *Please make sure that all refrigerators, cable boxes, and modems are left plugged in!
- Clean the inside of your refrigerator and the inside of your microwave.
- If you wish to report a maintenance issue, please complete the [online maintenance request form](#).
- **Check out with a Residence Life staff member, return your key, and complete the room condition check-out process with your Residence Life staff.**

Meal Plans:

Students can **change their meal plan** for the spring semester (if eligible based on your room assignment and if you are not a first-year student) starting today, Friday, December 1st, 2023, until Friday, February 2nd, 2024. **After February 2nd, all meal plans are final for the semester.**

You can change your meal plan online through your MyHousing by selecting the "Meal Plan" tab and choosing any of the available options in the Spring 2024 term.

A note about packages:

Please note that all packages delivered during the break will be held in the Office of Residence Life (Schwartz Hall Room 105) until the week of January 15th, 2024. 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 and updating any subscriptions, if applicable, until after the break, if possible.

If you need to retrieve a package from the office during the break, you must email us at reslife@southernct.edu in advance to set up a pickup time. Access will be limited.

Dining Hours During Finals Week:

- Connecticut Hall:
 - Monday through Thursday: Normal business hours
 - Friday: Closes at 2:30 p.m.
- Student Center:
 - Monday through Wednesday: Normal business hours (All locations except Sub Connection)
 - Thursday: Closes at 6:30 p.m. (All locations except Sub Connection)
 - Friday: Closed (All locations)
 - Sub Connection will be closed Wednesday through Friday.
- Bagel Wagon & The Owls Perch:
 - Monday through Wednesday: Normal business hours
 - Thursday: Closes at 6:30 p.m.
 - Friday: Closed
- Roberta's: (Located in North Campus)
 - Monday through Wednesday: Normal business hours
 - Thursday and Friday: Closed

If you have any questions regarding winter break closing, 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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Good luck with your finals! We hope you all have a wonderful break and a prosperous new year! We look forward to welcoming you back for the spring 2024 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



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!

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.

University Calendar- <https://calendar.southernct.edu/>

Academic Calendar- <https://catalog.southernct.edu/undergraduate/academic-calendar.html?fbclid=IwAR1sTtbXODwnV3QixzKk4KcsMw4rMXo2c4VasAlAndGGQewphMqSK3TnCNs>

You were subscribed to this listserv as your email is listed in your student's profile based on their initial application to Southern.

The emails you will receive will include the information we send to your students, additional strategies specifically designed for parents/families and how they can best support their students and general information regarding the university. As we will be intentional on the information we send, we will try not to "flood" your inbox and be very strategic on sending the most pertinent information.

We also invite you to join our Parent/Family Facebook Group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scsunarents/>.

However, if you prefer not to receive future emails, please unsubscribe by replying to this email.
