

Food Security at UCSB

Commitment To Accessibility

UCSB was ranked #2 in the third annual New York Times College Access Index as the college/university doing the most for economic diversity and the american dream. All of the top 5 campuses on the college access index were from the University of California. In addition to this, 42% of undergraduates across the UC are first generation college students. 80% of our first generation students graduate within 6 years as compared to 11% of first generation students nationally.

Background

When the Associated Students Food Bank formed in 2011, the chair of the Food Bank committee, Eric Lankey, started to bring together campus and community partners concerned with food insecurity amongst students and build support for the campus pantry. Early partners included the Commission on Student Well Being (COSWB), the Isla Vista Food Co-op, the Student Financial Resource Committee and The Student Initiated Recruitment and Retention Committee (SIRRC.)

In July of 2014, President Napolitano launched the University of California, Global Food Initiative (GFI). The UC GFI addresses one of the most critical issues of our time: how to sustainable and nutritiously feed a world population expected to reach eight billion by 2025. This initiative was inspired by the many conversations that President Napolitano had with campus students, staff, and faculty as she visited the campuses in the year prior. Each campus was asked to take a lead on a variety of sub-committees related to the overall initiative. UCSB stakeholders (students and staff) were named co-chairs on the following working groups: Swipe Out Hunger, Data Mining: Food Security, Farmers' Markets, Food Access and Security, Small Growers, and Food from the Sea. In 2016, UCSB students also started the Edible Campus Program statewide working group.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, Katie Maynard, UCSB Sustainability Coordinator, partnered with the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Division's Nutrition Policy Institute (NPI) to initiate a statewide study on food security. This study found that 42% of UC students surveyed were food insecure. This included 19% with very low food security and 23% with low food security.

In 2015, the Food Access and Security statewide working group proposed the creation of a Food Security Taskforce or Steering Committee at each campus. Chancellor Henry Yang appointed UCSB's Food Security Taskforce to be chaired by Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Services, Mike Miller. In order to secure broader feedback and involvement, the Food Security Taskforce created the Food Security Coalition, which now has over 100 active members. The coalition is open to any student, staff, faculty member, or community stakeholder who would like to participate.

Existing Programs and Current Efforts

Education and Communications

- The Food Security Communications Team of the Food Security Taskforce developed a strategic communications plans. In this plan, the team developed population-specific messaging and outreach strategies of underrepresented or high-need students subgroups (transfer students, undocumented students, students of color, LGBT Students, and veterans).
- In July 2017, approximately 10,000 - 11,000 work study students were informed through their financial aid letters that they may be eligible for CalFresh.
- Central website created to highlight all UCSB food security information (food.ucsb.edu).
- Presentations given regularly to stakeholders throughout campus on food insecurity, resources available to students, and referral information. Over 20 presentations were given in 2016-2017.
- Admissions and UC GFI published a Basic Needs Resource Guide and is disseminating that to newly admitted students.
- Information about food security and related resources is presented through summer orientation, Week of Welcome, Freshman Summer Start, Transfer Orientations, etc.
- The Food, Nutrition, Basic Skills (FNBS) Program educates students about procuring and cooking affordable, healthy, and sustainable foods. Students learn about budgeting and financial planning, cooking and nutrition, kitchen basics, and connection to the food system. Hands-on curriculum includes input from experts across campus and includes culturally relevant and family-friendly foods and field trips. During the 2016-2017 school year, FNBS worked with 62 partners from 21 departments, and hosted 67 educational and hands-on workshops, to 648 unduplicated students (831 duplicated). UCSB has two mobile cooking carts for this program. Partners also included off-campus entities such as the Isla Vista Food Cooperative.
- Residential Dining Services (RDS) runs programming throughout Nutrition Week and educates students on vegetarian and vegan options through the Green Mondays program. Other educational programs include Sustainability Week, Sustainable Seafood Day, and Earth Day.
- RDS also operates an app called Net Nutrition and Gaucho Bite Bright to help students make healthy food choices in the Dining Commons.
- One professional staff member at Student Health trains 10-20 students each year who receive Healthy Eating and Living Certification. They influence their peers in formal and informal settings.
- Health and Wellness offers nutrition education events as part of their Take the Wheel challenge, a challenge to encourage students to approach health in a well-rounded way.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1VGWib4XpU>
- Students can receive nutrition counseling from registered dietitians at Student Health as part of Gaucho Health Insurance or the Gaucho Access Plan. Services range from diet counseling for long-term health, dietary intervention for high cholesterol, high triglycerides, diabetes, hypertension, sports performance issues, diet for long-term health, and working with disordered eating concerns.

Direct Service

- The Financial Crisis Response Team brings together leaders from 13 departments to re-evaluate individual student financial situations and streamline resources for students in need. During the Academic Year 2017-18, the Financial Crisis Response Team served about 80 students. Of those students, about 64 received financial aid assistance and 4 received additional emergency funding through the Financial Crisis Response Team.
- The Financial Crisis Response Team partnered with Housing, Dining, and Auxiliary Enterprises to purchase 5,333 meal vouchers for students in crisis. These are distributed in 51 locations.
- Emergency financial assistance is also available for students in the following ways: emergency housing support through the Community Housing Office, emergency loans through Associated Students or the Alumni Association, emergency relief grant through the Graduate Student Association, medical emergency fund through the Educational Opportunity Program, and the Student Medical Emergency Relief Fund through the Recreation Center.
- Food Pantries
 - Associated Students Food Bank (UCSB's first food pantry): Established in April 2011, the A.S. Food Bank provides registered undergraduate and graduate students with fresh food, produce and toiletries, with mobile food distribution available well. They also do so much more...they will help you apply for Cal Fresh, they distribute free Dining Hall meal tickets to students in need (Swipe for Us Program), they even help coordinate free cooking demonstrations & workshops (Food, Nutrition and Basic Skills Program) <https://foodbank.as.ucsb.edu>. 3,081 students utilized the food bank in the 2016-2017 academic school year.
 - West Campus Student Family Housing Food Pantry: This was established in the 2016-2017 academic year by the Tenants Association and Housing Dining and Auxiliary Enterprises (HDAE) at the West Campus Student Family Housing Apartments. Donations come from both AS Food Bank and through the Tenants Association directly.
- AS Food Bank also hosts Mobile food distributions at Santa Ynez, San Clemente, Storke, and West Campus Family Student Housing. They served an average of 80 people per food distribution last year.
- Calfresh, a federal nutrition assistance program, gives qualifying students more purchasing power to buy nutritious foods such as fresh vegetables. UCSB currently funds seven student interns to be CalFresh Advocates. Those advocates are advised by the Santa Barbara County Food Bank. During Academic Year 2016-17, the Calfresh Advocates helped 620 students enroll in Calfresh with just two advocates working that year. The CalFresh Advocates are aiming to enroll 3,000 or more this year. Some of the many locations that our advocates table at include: AS Food Bank, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Isla Vista Food Cooperative, Gaucho Certified Farmers Market, Educational Opportunity Program, Student Health, Family Student Housing, throughout the UCSB Residential Community, and more!
- The office of Residential and Community Living developed a new partnership with the Santa Barbara Unified School District to provide free, nutritious dinners through their mobile food truck to children between the ages of 0-18. Meals will be served at two locations at family student housing. This service began on June 12, 2017 and is scheduled through August 22, but will continue in summers if it is well used by residents. Adults can purchase meals for \$4.

- The student organization Swipes for Us collects 800 meal "swipes" each quarter to give to students in need, who can redeem these swipes for meals at the dining commons.
- University Center donates nonperishable items to the AS Food Bank, and has been doing so since 2012.
- The Gaucho Certified Farmers Market (GCFM) provides a weekly opportunity for the community to purchase fresh produce and artisanal foods on campus. During Academic Year 2016-17, they had an average of 6 vendors, an average of 100-150 patrons per week, and also shared free educational recipes on how to prepare nutritious menus from items purchased at the GCFM for less than \$4.44 per dish. They also partnered with food insecurity groups such as the AS Food Bank and the Calfresh Advocates to increase outreach of food resources. The Farmers Market was recently approved to accept EBT and will start doing so in October.
- Residential Dining Services is developing a new grocery store (Tenaya Market) at Santa Catalina Residence Hall (opening in 2017-2018 school year.)
- UCen and UCen Convenience stores have greatly increased availability of healthy and organic snack options.
- Under the leadership of Sue Hawkins, UCSB has integrated healthy choices into our campus vending machines through cooperation with our vending machine company.
- Health and Wellness provides free fruit to the campus community through the WTF (What the Fruit) program at 18 locations on campus.
- The Edible Campus Program supports existing food donation programs by growing food for students in need. Edible Campus has three projects: the Urban Orchard, Hydroponic Vertical Gardens, and Campus Farm. All three are designed to grow food for the AS Food Bank.
 - Two Vertical Hydroponic Towers were installed at the Recreation Center in April 2017.
 - The Urban Orchard project planted 7 citrus trees in Storke Plaza.
 - The campus farm is planned to be constructed in the 2017-2018 academic year.
- Housing and Residential Services has garden spaces for their residents at Storke Family Student Housing (approximately 50 plots) and West Campus Family Student Housing (approximately 60 plots).
- Greenhouse and Garden Project has 60 garden plots available to UCSB students, staff, and faculty for \$40 per year.
 - The Greenhouse and Garden Project hired an outreach and community partnerships intern funded by the Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) to increase awareness of GHGP and to increase involvement of communities typically underrepresented in gardening and farming programs.
- UCSB offers several guides on financial resources such as the Student Financial Guide: <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/resources/student-parent-information/student-financial-guide> and the Financial Aid Matters Guide: https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/docs/default-source/default-document-library/financial-aid-matters-guide1718.pdf?sfvrsn=b84e038a_4
- AS Community Financial Fund offers Financial Literacy Workshops and Emergency Financial Assistance for UCSB students: <https://cff.as.ucsb.edu>
- Education Opportunity Program Resources <http://eop.sa.ucsb.edu/services/grant>
- Social Work Services <http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/behavioral-health/social-work>
- Veterans Resources www.sa.ucsb.edu/veterans

- Community Housing Office (CHO): When moving out on your own, the CHO can assist with housing placement, relocation documentation, roommate dispute mediation and other critical issues. www.housing.ucsb.edu/cho The Community Housing Office worked with Santa Barbara County to establish emergency shelters for students who experience housing loss due to fire, cliff erosion, or other emergencies.
- Isla Vista Tenants Union (IVTU): IVTU is a student-run service that provides guidance and advocacy for tenants' rights. IVTU is connected with the Legal Resource Center, which offers pertinent legal advice. <http://ivtenantsunion.com>
- University-Owned Housing: UCSB Housing, Dining and Auxiliary Enterprises provides residence halls and undergraduate apartments for undergraduate students. www.housing.ucsb.edu

Structural Change and Policy

Accomplishments:

- The Financial Crisis Response Team in Financial Aid can often help a student whose family is not contributing the full expected family contribution. Financial Crisis Team has been connecting with the RCGSD on ideas to better serve the LGBT community. Transgender individuals are 20% more likely to be food insecure than the average student (Student Food Access Security Study, 2016). The LGBT community as a whole is 1.6 more likely to be food insecure.
- UCSB works closely with and provides financial support to the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) to ensure our students, staff, and faculty have access to a robust bus system. Through this collaboration, the routes and hours of buses servicing UCSB and Isla Vista have been expanded. UCSB also provides funding to MTD to allow students, staff, and faculty with unlimited rides on a new bus line 28, which connects campus to local farmers markets, and grocery stores all within 2 miles of Isla Vista, such as Albertsons, Smart and Final, and Indochina Market.
- Financial aid takes undocumented student status into account and often supplements their packages with institutional funding to match the federal funding that they are not able to receive.
- The work-study program incentivizes employers to hire work-study students, which enables more low-income students to have employment opportunities.
- Career services offers resources and skills training, such as interviewing workshops, job fairs, cover letter and resume building review, etc.
- Exploring a partnership with the UCSB Davidson Library to expand textbook rentals through the reserves and multi-user electronic-book licenses.
- Within the 2010 LRDP, UCSB is expected to offer housing to 50% of our students rather than the 33% who lived on campus when the 2010 LRDP was written. This will cover 100% of the new students added since the LRDP was written.
- The Santa Barbara Student Housing Cooperative offers group living arrangements with a built-in community meal plan. Non-residential meal plans are also offered at the cooperatives.
- Collaborated with UC Agriculture and Natural Resource Division, and Nutrition Policy Institute, to conduct a survey at all ten UC campuses to evaluate food security among students. Disseminated information across campus.
- Established a giving site for food security development efforts.
- Collaborate with Health and Wellness to collect regular bi-annual data on food insecurity of UCSB students, including food security rates, resources, and services.

- Established the Gaucho Family Fund to offer more resources to undergraduate students with dependents.