

# Food Insecurity Program FAQ

## What does the term Food Insecurity mean?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

A study by Temple University and the Wisconsin HOPE Lab found that More than 1 in 3 student respondents dealt with low food security, defined as difficulty getting adequate food within the previous 30 days (Burch, James. "[1 in 3 College Students Faces Food Insecurity.](#)" *The Hill*, Feb. 2020)

## Why was this program implemented at Bryant?

The health and wellbeing of students is our top priority. Food insecurity has been on the rise nationally and locally. Food insecurity leads to poor academic performance and reduced graduation rates. To ensure all members of the Bryant community have access to healthy food provides students an equitable opportunity to succeed.

## How does the program work?

Meal swipes are added to a student's card. Students can also receive nonperishable food items and/or financial support to purchase groceries

## What are the eligibility requirements?

Any Bryant student who is experiencing food insecurity is eligible for the program, including commuters and graduate students.

## How does a student receive support?

Students in need will meet confidentially with a staff member to help determine the right level of support. Student privacy is important to us. Contact Carolina Bogaert [cbogaert@bryant.edu](mailto:cbogaert@bryant.edu) to set up a meeting.

## Will meal swipes work at other campus venues besides Salmanson?

Yes, meals provided through the program will work at any campus venue that allows you to use a swipe for service

## Who oversees the program?

The program is being piloted by the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, with the generous support of Sodexo.

## Can students donate meal swipes?

We are working to create the structure needed for student meal swipes donation, and we are hoping to make this possible during the fall of 2021. Stay tuned!

## Can faculty, staff, or alumni donate to the program?

We are looking into possible ways to receive donations. Currently, the best way to help is to make sure that information about the program is reaching students in need, so please spread the word!



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# Community Resources

*This is a list of FREE resources available to Bryant students.*

- **Food Insecurity Program** – Any Bryant student experiencing food insecurity is eligible; meal swipes and groceries will be offered based on individual need.  
Contact: Carolina Bogaert Cbogaert@bryant.edu
- **ICC Kitchen** – Reserve the kitchen to prep and cook meals. Send a message with the date and time that you would like to reserve.  
Contacts: Kristen Johnson kjohnson13@bryant.edu ; Jordan Cruz Jcruz6@bryant.edu
- **Dress for Success Closet** – The Dress For Success Closet has business clothes, including pants, suit jackets, shirts and more.  
Contact: Kelly Tiarks at ktiarks@bryant.edu
- **PwC CDI Lending Library** – Students can borrow available textbooks for the semester.  
Contact: Jordan Cruz Jcruz6@bryant.edu
- **Douglas and Judith Krupp Library** – The library has select titles and resources that have been assigned by professors available for checkout. Library Catalog: <https://library.bryant.edu/>

## Hygiene and Sexual Health Products

- Health Services offers feminine hygiene and sexual hygiene products. Contact: 401-232-6220
- The Hochberg Women's Center offers condoms, pregnancy tests, and Plan B.  
Contact: Kelly Boutin kboutin1@bryant.edu
- **Counseling Services** – Available for free counseling or consultation throughout the semester.  
M-F 8:30AM-4:30PM. Email [bcs@bryant.edu](mailto:bcs@bryant.edu) or call 401-232-6045
- **Health Services** – Available for free medical appointments and consultations.  
M-F 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 401-232-6220
- **My Bryant Transit** – Free transportation to nearby markets, stores, and medical center  
<https://info.bryant.edu/transportation>
- **Advocacy Helpline** – On-campus advocates provide support during the academic year to survivors of violence. Call 401-258-4209 to connect.

## Off-Campus Resources

- **SNAP Program** – The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the purchase of healthy foods. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/recipient/eligibility>
- **RI Community Food Bank** – The RI Community Food bank provides groceries through a network of local agencies. Check out [https://rifoodbank.org/\\_for](https://rifoodbank.org/_for) more information.



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