

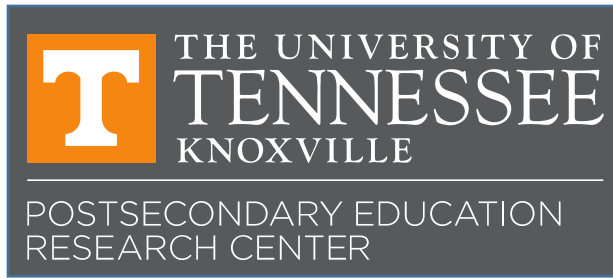
# UNIVERSITY FOOD INSECURITY AID PROGRAMS

Benchmarking Report for Food Insecurity  
Pantry or Meal Share Aid Programs

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The Postsecondary Education Research Center (PERC) is based in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the College of Education, Health & Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The mission of the Postsecondary Education Research Center (PERC) is to identify, conduct, and coordinate research on initiatives and ideas designed to enhance higher education at the institution, state, and national levels to enhance policy and practice.

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# Summary of Findings

Food insecurity is defined as the uncertain or limited ability to get adequate food due to lack of financial resources. In the United States, 12.3% of households are food insecure (Coleman-Jensen, Rabbitt, Gregory, & Singh, 2017). Recently, food insecurity among college students has received increased attention. Studies show that between 35% and 72% of college students may be food insecure (Watson, Malan, Glik, & Martinez, 2017; Bruening, Argo, Payne-Sturges, & Laska, 2018; Goldrick-Rab, Richardson, & Hernandez, 2017).

The rising costs of attending college, predominately the rising tuition and housing costs, contribute to prevalence of food insecurity among college students (Payne-Sturges, Tjaden, Caldeira, Vincent, & Arria, 2018). Students who are food insecure have lower average GPAs, retention rates, and graduation rates, and are also at risk of being in poor health, obesity, diabetes, depression and anxiety, and other physical and mental health problems (Payne-Sturges, Tjaden, Caldeira, Vincent, & Arria, 2018; Gundersen & Ziliak, 2015; Seligman & Schillinger, 2010). Furthermore, Wood and Harris (2018) found that multiethnic and Black students are most likely to report being food insecure.

Research in the United States examining the prevalence of food insecurity on campuses and the effectiveness of food insecurity interventions is limited (Bruening, Argo, Payne-Sturges, & Laska, 2018). Yet, analysis points to increased awareness of food insecurity among college students and a desire for change (Watson, Malan, Glik, & Martinez, 2017). For this report, the Postsecondary Education Research Center (PERC) examined food pantry and meal sharing programs for students at aspirational and peer institutions. Additionally, PERC staff gathered information from programs at institutions with higher Pell grant and high retention/graduation metrics across the United States.

Highlights from our analysis:

- 100% of peer and aspirational institutions have a campus affiliated food pantry.
- 65% of high Pell/retention institutions have a campus affiliated food pantry.
- 28% of peer and aspirational institutions require an application to use the food pantry.
- 22% of peer and aspiration institutions have a meal share/meal plan donation program.

Recommendations for the University of Tennessee:

- With the collaboration of PERC staff, create a campus-wide survey to determine the prevalence of food insecurity at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- Increase marketing and expand accessibility of Smoky's Pantry.
- Continue to improve and develop meal share program through programs such as <http://www.swipehunger.org/> and <https://sharemeals.org/>
- Work with state legislators and lawmakers to develop statewide initiative to address food insecurity on college campuses

# Review of Institutions

Peer Category	University	Has Food Insecurity Program?	Meal Share Program?
Comparable	Auburn University	Yes	No
Comparable	Clemson University	Yes	No
Comparable	Iowa State University	Yes	No
Comparable	Louisiana State University	Yes	No
Comparable	North Carolina State University	Yes	No
Comparable	University of Alabama	Yes	Yes
Comparable	University of Kentucky	Yes	No
Comparable	University of Missouri	Yes	Yes
Comparable	University of Nebraska	Yes	No
Comparable	University of South Carolina	Yes	No
Comparable	Virginia Tech	Yes	No
Aspirational	Michigan State University	Yes	No
Aspirational	Purdue University	Yes	No
Aspirational	University of Florida	Yes	No
Aspirational	University of Georgia	Yes	No
Aspirational	University of Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Aspirational	University of Wisconsin	Yes	No
Recommended	Georgia State University	Yes	No
High Pell/High Retention	University of California-Riverside	Yes	No
High Pell/High Retention	CUNY Bernard M Baruch College	No	No
High Pell/High Retention	University of California-Irvine	Yes	Yes
High Pell/High Retention	University of California-Davis	Yes	Yes
High Pell/High Retention	University of California-Santa Barbara	Yes	Yes
High Pell/High Retention	University of California-San Diego	Yes	No
High Pell/High Retention	Fashion Institute of Technology	No	No
High Pell/High Retention	University of California-Los Angeles	Yes	Yes
High Pell/High Retention	Massachusetts College of Art and Design	Yes	No
High Pell/High Retention	Temple University	Yes	No
High Pell/High Graduation	Winston-Salem State University	Yes	No
High Pell/High Graduation	California State University-Los Angeles	Yes	No
High Pell/High Graduation	North Carolina Central University	Yes	No
High Pell/High Graduation	Jackson State University	Yes	No
High Pell/High Graduation	Elizabeth City State University	Yes	No
High Pell/High Graduation	South Carolina State University	No	No
High Pell/High Graduation	Grambling State University	No	No
High Pell/High Graduation	Southern University and A & M College	No	No
High Pell/High Graduation	Alcorn State University	No	No
High Pell/High Graduation	Prairie View A & M University	No	No

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