

Nourishing Success: Creating Food Security on a Small Campus

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Learning Objectives

1. Identify and apply at least three key strategies for building collaborative partnerships among students, campus stakeholders, and community organizations.
2. Evaluate the dual impact of campus food pantries as both direct service providers and educational platforms for raising awareness about food insecurity among college students
3. Develop an action plan for implementing a replicable food pantry model at your own institution or expanding current services, including strategies for resource mobilization, stakeholder engagement, and measuring outcomes in resource-constrained environments.

As we begin....

- What assumptions do people sometimes make about college students and hunger?
- Why might a student avoid using a food pantry even if they need support?
- How do you think food insecurity affects academic performance, mental health, or student retention?

Let's look at the numbers

28.1% of students ate less than they felt they should in the past 30 days because they lacked money for food (ACHA, 2024)

48.8% of students in Spring 2024 ACHA data reported any food insecurity (ACHA, 2024)

Spring 2025 NCHA, 44.7% of students reporting any food insecurity

23% of undergraduates were food insecure early in the pandemic (Collier, Perez. 2024)

33% of students attending a for profit institution were food insecure (Collier, Perez. 2024)

Doane University

1000 undergraduate students

75% of students are student athletes

Around 100 international students

3 year residential living requirement

With meal plans (vary depending on level c

On campus dining services including Tiger Den

Health and Wellness

TIGER PAW PANTRY

The Tiger Paw Pantry is available for students who are in need of food and hygiene products. If you don't see something you need, just let us know



TIGER PAW PANTRY

 **Perry Campus Center**
Room 115

ITEMS NEEDED - DONATIONS CAN BE MADE HERE

- Pre-made meals
- Food & Vegetable
- Breakfast items



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Tiger Paw Pantry Evolution

Shuffling between different departments until summer 2024

Health & Wellness began to oversee the pantry

Moved to Perry Campus Center (location matters)

- Was in a more open location
- Suffered vandalism
- Spring 2025, we had 240 visits to the Pantry
- Tracking inventory by tally marks
 - Unable to gather any demographic information



New Space, Same Goals

October 2025

- Moved to our new space
- Mobile ID access for students
 - Able to track student data
 - Used additional tools to determine on vs off campus; international, etc.
- Expanded the types of food that we could provide based on student feedback
 - Fresh fruit and vegetables
 - Eggs
 - Milk



Spring 2026 Review

1493 visits for the 2025-2026 academic year

202 unique students

Personal Hygiene Drive in coordination with the Red Out
basketball game

Faculty/Staff continued frequent donations

Student Congress Allocated \$3000 for the Paw Pantry in the 2026-
2027 Academic Year

Collaboration

Faculty/Staff- sharing about the Pantry, creating an Amazon wishlist, adding information to your website, donation drives

Students- Student Congress or similar group, Greek life

Community partners- local churches, local businesses

Grants- you will need lots of data (which we are still gathering through the NACHB and general screenings in health services)

Paw Pantry Student Organization

Student organization focusing on fighting food insecurity on Doane's campus

Began after presentation at Student Congress

- Seeking donations and monetary support for the pantry

Students gathered momentum and started a new student organization

Looking ahead...

- Growing our student organization, giving back to the community, fundraising
- Staffing and assisting with inventory, purchasing items

Impact on services to our community

Conversation around food insecurity and where we see the greatest need

It's not always the populations you think

It's not a taboo topic

Students feel supported by having resources available to them

Taking the time to share about the impact of food insecurity on college campuses

- Raising awareness that even if students are attending private schools, they still can face food insecurity

Education beyond our students

Through routine emails asking for donations, I have been able to educate our faculty and staff about the importance of nutrition on student success

Quarterly board of trustee meetings

- Report out on the data
- Sharing pictures and stories from impacted students
- Our board even did a donation drive for one of their meetings!

Take the opportunity to educate, even if it's passive!

Things to think about on your campus

- If you were starting a campus food pantry from scratch, what would be your first three steps?
- Who needs to be involved for a campus pantry to succeed?
- What campus departments or community partners would be natural collaborators?
- Where should a food pantry be located on campus, and why?
- What policies would need to be created before opening the pantry?
- How could student workers or volunteers be trained to support pantry users respectfully?
- How are you going to continue to fund your food pantry?

Lessons Learned

1. Get student input (frequently and often)
2. Find on campus and community partners to help with sustainability
3. Inventory tracking and out dates
4. Evaluation and ongoing assessment is key
5. Evolving process depending on your student needs and changing populations



References

American College Health Association. (2024). "National College Health Assessment". <https://www.acha.org/ncha/>

Collier, D., & Perez, B. (2024). "Food insecurity: A barrier to higher education". American Federation of Teachers.
https://www.aft.org/ae/winter2023-2024/collier_perez

Questions & Discussion



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