



THE FRANKLIN FRIDGE: AN ADVISOR-CENTERED APPROACH TO STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Introduction

Food insecurity among college students is garnering national attention (see References). Food insecurity, or being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food, has been associated with poor health and poor academic performance, as well as depression and anxiety.¹

College students experiencing food insecurity may not be hungry at all times. Their lack of food may reflect the necessity of making trade-offs between paying for basic needs (tuition, rent, books, etc.) and nutritionally adequate foods. Nearly a quarter of undergrads experience food insecurity during their career at the University of Georgia (UGA), a nationally ranked Research I institution².

UGA has addressed food insecurity on campus for nearly a decade. In 2011, the Office of Greek Life opened a Student Center Food Pantry. This pantry requires student ID scans and survey completion before food can be taken. The pantry is only open from 10 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday.³

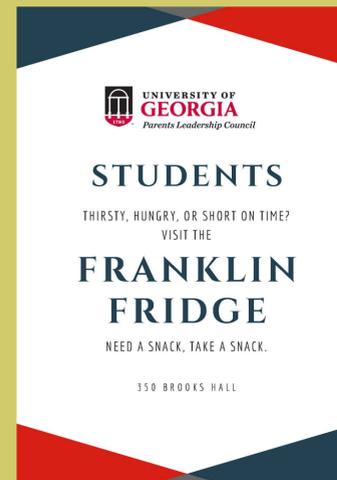
In 2015, the Office of Student Affairs established the “Let All the Big Dawgs Eat Food Scholarship” to provide meal plans to students with demonstrated financial need. To date, over 2,400 students have applied for scholarships, yet only 237 have received them.⁴

Our office felt there was still unmet need on campus, including a wider range of food distribution times and locations. This need prompted us to create the Franklin Fridge.



Objective

To continue to address the issue of food insecurity on campus, while at the same time respecting student privacy, the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Office of Student Academic Services established the Franklin Fridge, a no-questions-asked food resource available to all undergraduate students at UGA.



By the Numbers



- 120-150 Student encounters per week (Fall and Spring semesters)
- Almost no use during Summer terms
- >10,000 Individual food items collected
- \$2500 Cash donations
- \$1500 Grant funding

Beyond Brooks Hall: Building Your Own Student Pantry

Research

- Collect nationwide data
- Collect data for your college/ university: Find out about other campus food resources
- Legal and privacy concerns

Organize

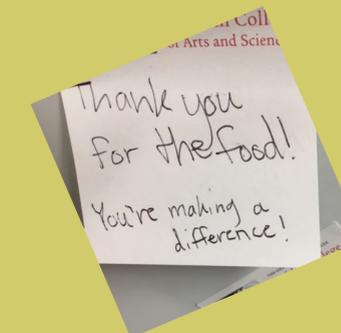
- Funding
- Space
- Shopping, stocking, and staffing
- Promotion, outreach, receipts, and thank-you's

Assess

- Food inventories
- Account keeping
- Tracking student use
- Advisor/Department/Community participation

Sustain

References



From Our Students

“Thank you guys very much! I wouldn't have eaten today without this!”

“Please tell everybody who does this that I said thank you. It was keeping me going last semester when I was REALLY low on cash.”

“I love y'all for feeding me!! ❤️”

