



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021-2022**

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INTRODUCTION

OUR MISSION

The University of Virginia has been ranked among the least socio-economically diverse institutions in the nation (Burd, 2016).

In recent years, however, the Office of the Dean of Students, along with other departments and community partners, have worked to expand access, support, and awareness for the experience of low-income students.

As a part of this work, **the UVA Community Food Pantry (CFP) seeks to eliminate financial hardships of UVA students and staff by providing free access to essential food and hygiene items.** CFP also aims to identify and quantify food insecurity at UVA in order to advocate for a just food system for all members of the UVA community.

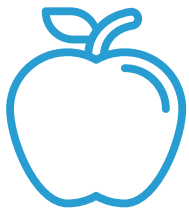
The following report details the reality of food insecurity at UVA, provides an overview of the history and current usage of the Community Food Pantry (CFP), and offers recommendations to address food security issues that are unique to the student experience and our community.

FOOD INSECURITY AT UVA

One in four students have reported experiencing food insecurity at UVA. In health assessment surveys conducted in 2019 and 2020, the UVA Office of Health Promotion found that between 24% and 33% of students experienced food insecurity within the past 30 days. Third Years and students who identify as LGBTQ+ experienced the highest rates within the sample.

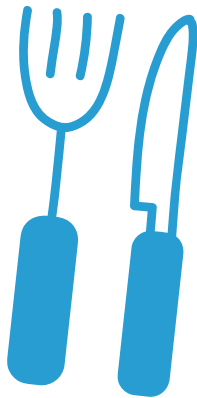
1 IN 4
STUDENTS EXPERIENCE
FOOD INSECURITY
AT UVA

WHAT DOES FOOD INSECURITY LOOK LIKE FOR STUDENTS?



Food insecurity is defined by limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate or safe food (USDA). In extreme cases, food insecurity is marked by the physical sensation of hunger, but more often for students it can look like:

- Deciding which meal of the day you can afford to eat
- Diet primarily consists of cheaper processed foods like instant noodles
- Not getting enough fruit or vegetables due to higher cost of fresh produce
- Cutting or stretching the size of meals to make multiple meals out of one meal due to financial constraints
- Choosing between daily essentials like having enough food or paying rent, health care, tuition, transportation, etc.



The Hope Center: National Basic Needs Report

There is a growing trend of food insecurity and rates of homelessness for college students nationwide. Findings from the most recent national basic needs study show that over half of all college students experienced some kind of basic needs insecurity (food insecurity, housing insecurity, or homelessness). 29% of students at four-year institutions report that they had experienced food insecurity (Hope Center, 2021). The pandemic exacerbated these difficulties - basic needs insecurity, food insecurity, and housing insecurity, particularly among four-year students, is more prevalent than previous years (Hope Center, 2021).



The Hope Center's report reinforces data at UVA and underscores the need for improvements in policy and practice that support the basic needs of all students. Investments in food assistance programs improve student outcomes including degree completion, employment prospects, and reducing need for future support (Hope Center, 2021). Such initiatives should be prioritized by leaders in higher education.

HISTORY & GOVERNANCE



Originally a program of the Student Council in 2018, the UVA Community Food Pantry (CFP) now functions as an independent entity under the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). This work directly aligns with ODOS’s mission to support students individually, collectively, and through student organizations to assist them in their intellectual and personal development. An unpaid Student Director and volunteer board hold a variety of positions to maintain daily operations.

In Spring 2022, ODOS hired a Graduate Assistant to support program expansion in food security, emergency financial aid, and other basic need resources, along with engaging with community partners, collecting data regarding ODOS services, and supporting student leaders on CFP projects. This work is currently supervised by an Assistant Dean in ODOS along with additional support from University Partners.

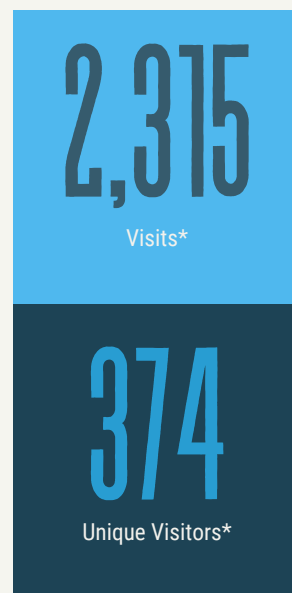
SATELLITE FOOD PANTRIES

The Office of the Dean of Students oversees the Food Insecurity Resource Group (FIRG), a collaborative, action oriented group of students and staff working to address food insecurity on grounds. As the Community Food Pantry is managed by staff and student volunteers under ODOS, satellite pantries across campus are operated by FIRG members at a variety of locations including:

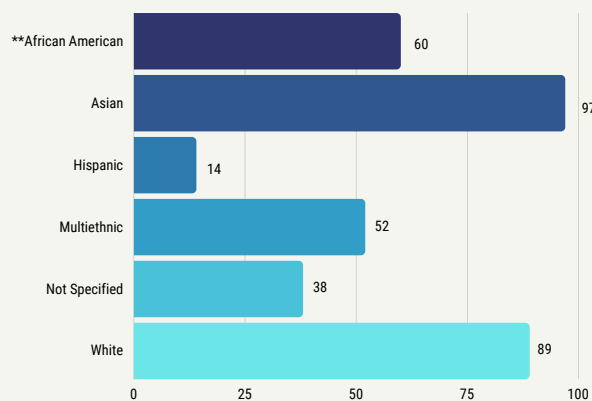
LOCATION	HOURS	SERVICES
School of Education (Ridley 285)	Weekdays 7am-9pm (hours may vary during the summer)	Provides shelf stable items, some refrigerated items, and small grab and go meals (rice, pasta, soup)
School of Engineering Food Pantry (Thornton A121)	Whenever Thornton Hall is open or if an individual has swipe access to building	Provides hygiene products including soap, shampoo, oral health care items, and feminine hygiene products
School of Nursing Food Pantry	Weekdays 7am-6pm (hours may vary during the summer)	Provides shelf stable items, produce, dairy, eggs, and hygiene products
Maxine Platzer Lynn Women’s Center (1400 University Avenue)	Weekdays 10am-1pm, see website for more specifics www.womenscenter.virginia.edu	Provides shelf stable grab and go meals (soup, rice, pasta), some produce items, gluten-free and vegan items

2021/22 TRENDS & HIGHLIGHTS

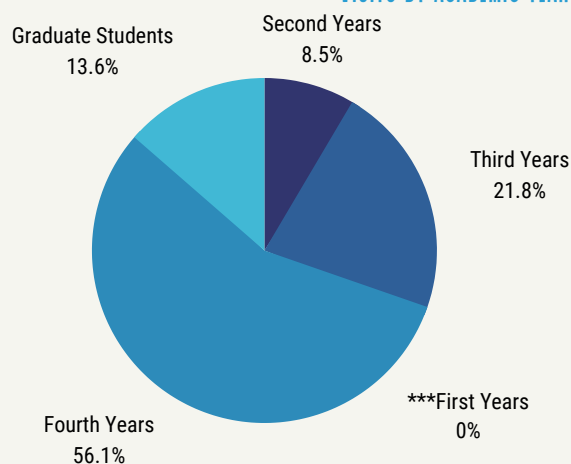
We know from swipe access data from the 21/22 academic year that 374 unique patrons visited the pantry a total of 2,315 times and from our most recent and comprehensive survey on food insecurity, 23% of undergraduates and 17% of graduate students experience some level of food insecurity at UVA. The continued expansion of these services is vital to meeting our students where they are.



STUDENT ETHNICITY



VISITS BY ACADEMIC YEAR



*Includes faculty and staff as well as student visitors. Student ethnicity and breakdown of student visits by year does not include employee data. Of the 374 unique visitors, 19 were employees. It's difficult to determine how faculty and staff are using the space - it may be for janitorial purposes, tours, inspection, or for personal use.

**The bar graph illustrates the total number of pantry visits by ethnicity. However, when looking at how often a student visits the pantry, frequency rates are as follows: 19% African American, 27% Asian, 3% Hispanic, 13% Multiethnic, 8% Not Specified, and 16% White.

***First Years are required to have a meal plan so it make sense that food pantry services are not needed for these students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The UVA Community Food Pantry is a vital cog in the wheel of services on grounds. We are deeply appreciative of so many donors and collaborators who work alongside one another to support the lives of UVA students, faculty, and staff. Whether it's...

- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
- McIntire School of Commerce
- Maxine Platzer Lynn Women's Center
- Morven Kitchen Garden
- OnReserve at UVA
- Parents' Committee
- Student Council
- The Office of Health Promotion
- The School of Education
- The School of Engineering
- The School of Nursing
- University Baptist Church
- UVA Dine
- ...and so many more!

UVA Community Food Pantry
P.O. Box 400708
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4708
www.pantryatuva.org
pantryatuva@gmail.com

Thank you! We could not do this work without you!

WE THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

REFERENCES

Burd, S. (2016). UNDERMINING PELL: VOLUME III The News Keeps Getting Worse for Low-Income Students. Retrieved from <https://static.newamerica.org/attachments/12813-undermining-PELL-volume-iii/Undermining-Pell-III-3.15bba9018bb54ad48f850f6f3a62a9fc.pdf>

Data from the February 2019 Health Survey with responses from 808 UVA undergraduate students. Collected by UVA Student Health. For more information or questions about the data please contact Sarah Knight, Data Initiatives and Evaluation Specialist, sarah.knight@virginia.edu.

The Hope Center. (2021, March 31). #RealCollege 2021: Basic Needs Insecurity During the Ongoing Pandemic | The Hope Center. Retrieved June 14, 2022, from The Hope Center website: <https://hope4college.com/rc2021-bni-during-the-ongoing-pandemic/>

USDA ERS - Definitions of Food Security. (2017). Retrieved June 23, 2022, from Usda.gov website: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/definitions-of-food-security/>