

S.R. 10 (2024)

Resolution Urging Santa Clara University Office of the Provost to Incorporate a Basic Needs
Resources Syllabi Statement

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ADDRESSED TO:

Santa Clara University Office of the Provost



SCU Basic Needs Syllabi Statement

May 16th, 2024

The Student Senate of Santa Clara University,

RECOGNIZING that 35.25% of SCU students stated that they experienced food insecurity and 11.66% of all students reported experiencing housing insecurity in 2022-2023, the basic needs insecurity status at Santa Clara University is becoming more concerning. Santa Clara University needs to create a more supportive environment to assist students who are experiencing basic needs insecurity.

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that stigma about basic needs insecurity is a serious issue, and students may not know about resources nor feel comfortable reaching out to faculty or staff because of the taboo of this topic, details should be streamlined via syllabi statements to remove uncomfortability. Providing students with essential access to these resources aligns with Santa Clara University's "Commitment to Students" value, embodying the spirit of *Cura Personalis* and supporting students' physical well-being.

ACKNOWLEDGING that incorporating statements about basic needs insecurity into course syllabi is a vital step in addressing the holistic well-being of students, SCU administrators should incorporate statements that outline all of the resources the university provides students to aid those facing basic needs insecurities. Moreover, in 2022-2023, more than 1/5 of university students stated they believe that incorporating syllabi statements would help students who are basic needs insecure.

By explicitly acknowledging that these challenges can impact academic performance, these statements serve as an important bridge between students facing hardships and the resources available to assist them. Including this information in the syllabus not only normalizes conversations about basic needs but also proactively informs students about support mechanisms, such as the Bronco Food Pantry, the Basic Needs Committee, and financial aid. This practice fosters a supportive educational environment, where students feel seen and understood, thereby reducing stigma and encouraging those in need to seek help. Ultimately, syllabi statements regarding basic needs insecurity enhance educational equity by helping to ensure that all students, regardless of their socio-economic status, have the opportunity to succeed academically.


FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that Santa Clara University has incorporated other statements in course syllabi that direct students to other important information that will add to their academic success, such as Academic Integrity, Office of Accessible Education, Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students, and Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct (Title IX), and noting the importance of syllabi statements for students to understand crucial information about their Santa Clara University education. Moreover, the Office of the Provost at SCU urges professors to create syllabi that aim to make their course a more equitable place, as well as direct students to necessary resources. Students only sometimes have information for these important resources, besides the information outlined in the syllabi statements.

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University, request that the Santa Clara University Office of the Provost create a generic syllabi statement, in conjunction with the Basic Needs Taskforce, that refers students to basic needs resources, including, but not limited to, the Bronco Food Pantry, local meal assistance programs, resources for unhoused and housing insecure students, and direction to the Basic Needs Taskforce and Coordinator, as well as the Office of Student Life.

So signed by the following individuals, representative of the collective approval of the Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University,



Katie Duffy
Senior Senator
Document Author



Alexa Pritchard
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