

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition
260 Bevier Hall, MC-182
905 S. Goodwin Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801

To any group willing to consider donating:

Meal Plan	Base Rate	9% Sales Tax	Total Cost for Academic Year
5 Classic Meals per week*	\$2,318	NA	\$2,318
6 Classic Meals + 25 Dining Dollars per week*	\$2,910	NA	\$2,910
12 Classic Meals + 15 Dining Dollars per week	\$4,896	NA	\$4,896
10 Classic Meals + 45 Dining Dollars per week	\$5,624	NA	\$5,624
All Dining Dollars (130 per week)	\$6,016	NA	\$6,016
All Classic Meals (dine up to 7 times per day, up to 47 meals per week)	\$6,016	NA	\$6,016

*The 6 Classic and 6 Classic + 25 Dining Dollars plans are only available to residents in Taft, Van Doren, Sherman, Daniels, or University Apartments. Residents of University Housing are not required to pay sales tax when purchasing meal plans.

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I am writing am writing with a sincere request that hits close to home. As a nutrition instructor at UIUC to over 900 students in fall and spring, I noticed that many of my students would come to class at 12:30pm having not eaten anything for since lunch the day before. When asking students to elaborate, they vulnerably shared that they can barely afford to attend school, let alone buy a meal plan that allows them to have more than one meal a day for the full week. As noted below, dorms offer a 6 meal plan or 10 meal plan for the week. Thus, leaving days with one or even zero meals available to students.

Because I share about food in my class that is held over the traditional lunch hour, students cannot take advantage of an alternate free lunches on campus if they were to attend class. So, they sit facing me, hungry as I share about the benefits of a healthy diet with many pictures. It is uncomfortable to say the least. I have even had hungry students vulnerably approach me asking if I was able to bring some food so they can focus on the learning objectives as it is “otherwise too uncomfortable for them to learn about food while their stomach is growling”.

In response, for the past two years, I have paid out of my own pocket to bring a modest 40-60 granola bars, apple sauces, or other items to the students 2x per week. But, the small food offerings are always gone by the first 5 minutes of class leaving many other students in the large lecture hall very hungry.

Currently, on a teacher’s salary, I am unable to budget for this without an end in sight. The food banks state that they need to “track the individuals they serve” and they cannot donate to this cause. I was sharing with friends about my desire to help meet students’ needs and they encouraged me to **reach out to see if the grocery store that I shop at would be willing to make donations of day old bread, food that is just about to expire, and other drinks or foodstuffs that would otherwise go to waste.** This idea seemed like it could be mutually beneficial. And, any donations that students in FSHN 120 do not take, we promptly deliver to the Food Assistance and Well Being Program at UIUC as well.

UIUC is a non-profit organization and it may be an opportunity for your business to use its tax exempt status as we collectively try to meet student needs. I look forward to the possibility of a mutually beneficial relationship where we can meet student needs in a meaningful way. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Toni Marie Gist
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