

Temporary Expansion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The UNO Office of Financial Support and Scholarships recognizes that during the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity among college students is at a much higher rate and may potentially be impacting many of you. Fortunately, there are resources in and around our community that may assist with addressing some of these needs including a newly approved temporary program expansion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

It's possible that if you are enrolled half-time spring 2021 semester (6 or more credit hours), you may qualify for Food and Nutrition Services (Food Stamps or SNAP) during this federal public health emergency. Under regular SNAP rules, students enrolled in college at least half-time are ineligible unless they meet an exemption. *However, the recently passed Consolidated Appropriations Act* temporarily expands SNAP eligibility to include students who either:

- 1. Are eligible for work-study during the regular 2020-21 academic year (even if they don't anticipate holding a campus job), **OR**
- 2. Have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 0 in the 2020-21 academic year.

To learn more, please read the Department of Education <u>announcement</u>. This expansion is temporary, but will last until 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted. You can learn more about the program and temporary eligibility <u>here</u>.

To learn more about SNAP benefits in Nebraska, you can visit the <u>SNAP page</u> through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). If you would like to apply, you can do so <u>online</u>. You can also apply by calling the appropriate Economic Assistance office listed below:

Nebraska State Economic Assistance: 800-383-4278 Lincoln Economic Assistance: 402-323-3900 Omaha Economic Assistance: 402-595-1258

If you live outside of Nebraska, contact your local SNAP Benefits administrator.

Please remember that the <u>Maverick Food Pantry</u> is also available to help meet dietary and personal hygiene needs of students, faculty and staff at UNO and UNMC. Additionally, United Way of the Midlands offers assistance in connecting our Nebraska and Southwest Iowa community to a wide variety of services by calling 211 which is available 24/7 by phone or text. Your call is free and confidential.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please let us know if we can help.

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