

### **UMass Amherst Meal Plan Assistance Program**

UMass is committed to helping with your food security needs. The campus, as a community, believes no student should go hungry. In addition to [immediate access to some meals through Dining Services' Supplemental Meal Swipes](#), a network of support resources is available.

As part of our commitment to student success, the UMass Amherst Student Meal Plan Assistance Program seeks to provide support to enrolled students in good standing for financial hardship and/or unexpected personal/family emergencies.

The meal plan assistance program is an application-based program to assist students facing food insecurity. The meal plan assistance program is not a cash award and is not tied to financial aid or grants. *A student may be awarded only once during their time at UMass Amherst.*

The Meal Plan Assistance Program is made possible through generous donations from the UMass Amherst community.

#### **Application Process:**

- Students submit a complete Meal Plan Assistance Program Application along with any relevant documents to the Dean of Students Office via email at [doso@umass.edu](mailto:doso@umass.edu) from their UMass student email.
  - Explain your need clearly and how the grant will resolve the described financial emergency
  - Note that you may be requested to provide additional supporting documentation
- Applications are reviewed by the Dean of Students Office. A typical review will take 1-2 weeks.
- In addition to reviewing the application and any relevant documents submitted by the student, the committee reviews financial aid information (does the student have unmet need as established by FAFSA), and the Bursars bill (does the student have an unpaid balance and/or has the student recently received a refund from the university).
- All currently matriculated students *are* eligible to apply for the Meal Plan Assistance Program.
- Students are notified via email whether the Meal Plan Assistance is approved or denied. If approved:
  - Dean of Students Office staff will submit paperwork to the Meal Plan Office who will process the meal plan assistance to your student meal plan account.

#### **Some of the reasons requests are denied include, but are not limited to:**

- The student is not an active student according to enrollment information.
- The student's Bursar bill is unpaid, or the student is delinquent in a payment plan.
- The student has other holds in their SPIRE account, which prevents enrollment or the Add/Drop of classes.
- Insufficient funds available in the fund.

## Meal Plan Assistance Program Application

*The information requested below will help determine your eligibility for this program:*

Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Meals Requested (max 50): \_\_\_\_\_

Student First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SPIRE ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I live  On-Campus  Off-Campus. If Off-Campus, what City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

I currently have a meal plan:            Yes            No

                 Undergraduate            Graduate

Expected Graduation Date:  Spring     Summer             Fall            20\_\_\_\_

1. Briefly explain the nature of your emergency and how much support you are requesting in the form of meal swipes.

2. How would this Meal Plan Assistance Program assist you in mitigating the hardship you are facing?

3. What efforts have you made to procure support from other sources?

I, the undersigned, certify that the information provided on this application is true:

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed applications should be submitted to the Dean of Students Office located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Whitmore Administration Building, Room 227 or via email to [doso@umass.edu](mailto:doso@umass.edu).

If you have additional questions, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [doso@umass.edu](mailto:doso@umass.edu) or 413-545-2684.