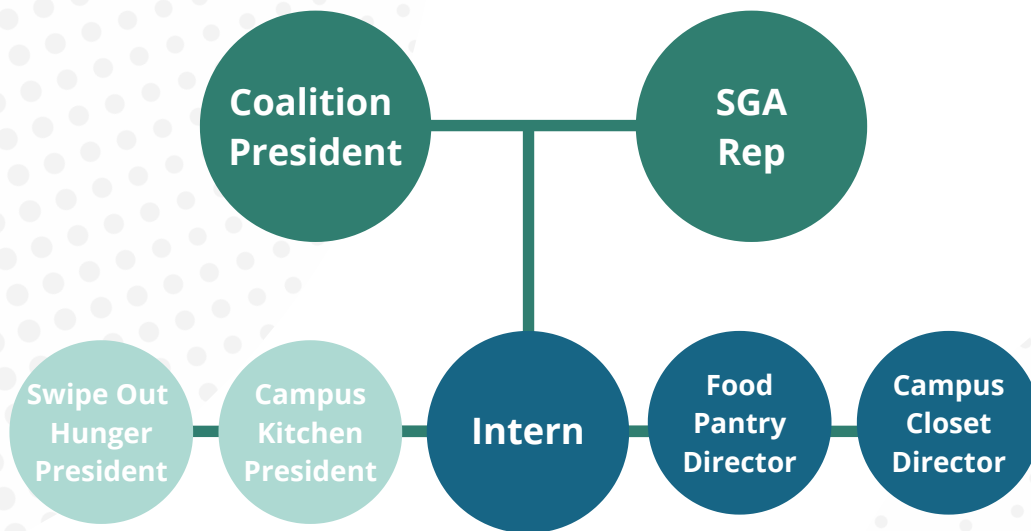


# Student Basic Needs Coalition

The need for streamlined student assistance on the GC campus is great, especially in the wake of COVID-19. During the transition to online classes in Spring 2020, GC raised over \$25,000 for the Helping Hands Fund to provide financial aid to students struggling to afford housing, food, and class materials. This fund was depleted within weeks of the application opening due to the great number of applicants. This event and preliminary data collection indicate that there are a variety of student needs not being met by existing resources. Currently, GC students who need basic needs assistance must seek out programs on their own and oftentimes encounter red tape, resulting in a lengthy and confusing search process. However, with the establishment of a Student Basic Needs Coalition (SBNC), students will spend less time seeking out assistance and more time focusing on academics and campus involvement.

The SBNC will be a network of programs that includes, but is not limited to, a campus food pantry, a Campus Closet, a Campus Kitchen program, and a Swipe Out Hunger program. By linking these programs, the SBNC will increase the accessibility of assistance services for students struggling to make ends meet. Additionally, the SBNC will work to develop and implement a greater variety of student assistance programs, while simultaneously improving existing programs to become more efficient and equitable.

## Coalition Structure



## Priorities

- 1** Increased funding and resources devoted to meeting students' basic needs
- 2** Streamline basic needs resources so students can easily access resources without having to navigate them on their own
- 3** Frequent and transparent quantitative data collection about student needs issues on campus
- 4** Establish a student basic needs center as a physical hub for basic needs programs

# Students want improved basic needs resources...



Meal assistance



Free clothing and hygiene products



COVID-related assistance



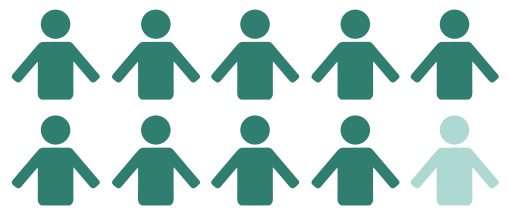
Housing assistance



School supply assistance



Transportation assistance



**9 OUT OF 10**

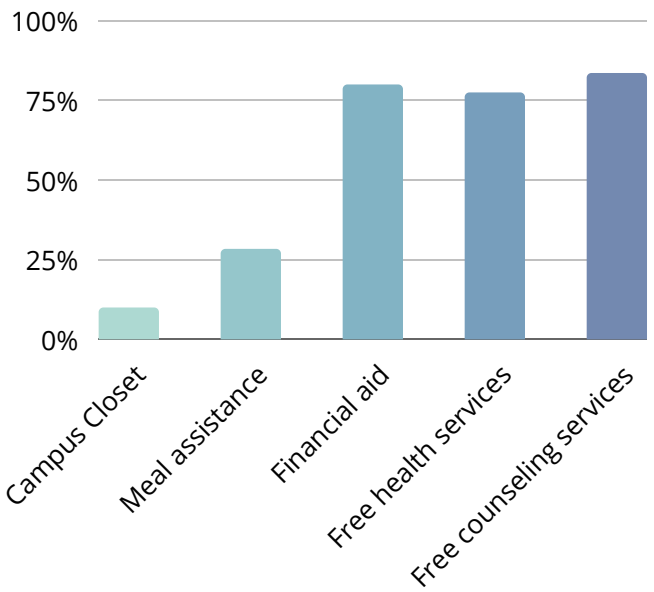
believe that tuition should be altered if classes are not completely in-person

Just cheaper housing would help a ton. I am seriously considering living in my car the next few years just so I can afford to stay in school. Also free food because I cannot afford a meal plan. I have to go to my mom's house or food banks to get food.

Professional attire assistance, I know people who struggled to even figure out a suit for the Elevator Pitch. And other students who buy clothes for interviews and return them after.

I would like to see more support throughout the year rather than just in emergency situations. We should help meet students' needs before they become dire. It should be easy for students to address these needs without feeling ashamed or singled out.

Percent of respondents familiar with resources offered at GC&SU



**12.3%**

of students would reach out to someone at GC&SU if they were struggling

**7.2**

Avg. satisfaction score (out of 10) of basic needs resources offered at GC&SU

**35.7%**

of students are worried about how they will afford school due to the economic impact of COVID19