

Introduced By: GAP Chair Vasquez
Sponsored By: Vice Chair Varela, E&A
Chair Escobar, Chair
Courts
Contact: Sgagap@ucf.edu
First Reading: February 20, 2025
Committee Action: Passed 11-0-1
Second Reading: February 27, 2025;
Passed 38-0-0
Third Reading: March 6, 2025
Final Vote: Passed 39-0-0



**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Sixth Student Body Senate
Resolution 56-13**

[Resolution Advocating for the Expansion of SNAP Requirements for College Student Eligibility]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.04(D)(1) states the Governmental Affairs and Policy (GAP) Committee shall pass measures pertaining to local, state, or federal government affairs;

WHEREAS, Article 2.05(C) of the Student Body Constitution states that the Student Body Senate shall express the will and sentiments of the Student Body Senate through legislation;

WHEREAS, SNAP, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is the nation's most important anti-hunger program. SNAP provides nutritional support for low-income seniors, people with disabilities living on fixed incomes, and other individuals and families with low incomes;

WHEREAS, SNAP is a federal program administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency (ESS). ESS is responsible for determining eligibility for SNAP using federal guidelines;

WHEREAS, SNAP eligibility rules and benefit levels are, for the most part, set at the federal level and uniform across the nation, though states have flexibility to tailor aspects of the program. Individuals must pass all eligibility rules to receive food assistance benefits;

WHEREAS, SNAP is the program, EBT is the distribution of funds, through a card (EBT Card);

WHEREAS, Requirements include, proof of identity, meet General Work Requirements, passing a gross income limit less than or equal to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), proof of residency, proof of citizenship, and meet and asset limit;

WHEREAS, Factors that make people ineligible are the following, people who are on strike, people without documented immigration status, some students attending college for more than half time, those who do not have children or disabled persons in their households;

WHEREAS, College students who attend college/university are only eligible if they meet an exemption, and all other SNAP requirements;

WHEREAS, Exemptions include, are under 18 years of age or over 50 years of age, are physically or mentally unfit, work at least 20 hours of paid employment, participate in a state or federally financed work study program, Participate in an on-the-job training program, or care for a child under the age of 6;

WHEREAS, At the University of Central Florida, it is calculated about 17% of students take out student loans;

WHEREAS, The UCF Knights Pantry has reported in 2024, that about 35% of students face some sort of food insecurity, which is about 24,000 students;

WHEREAS, Locations on campus, such as the Knights Stop Convenience Store in the Student Union, accepts EBT funds;

WHEREAS, The aforementioned requirements and eligibility requirements for college students specifically to receive SNAP benefits, make the SNAP program inaccessible to those who might need and benefit from the program most; and

WHEREAS, The GAP Committee is expressing the need for the expansion of SNAP requirements for college students by collaborating with UCF's lobbying firm, Grey Robinson.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida that there be an expansion of SNAP eligibility requirements tailored to make the program more accessible to college students, in an effort to make the college experience more accessible, these changes made by the Florida Department of Children and Families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to University President Alexander Cartwright, Office of the President members, Vice President of Student Success and Well-Being Adrienne Frame, Director of Governance Operations Carmen Jarquin, and Deputy Chief of Staff of External Affairs & Community Relations Bridget Keefe, Government and Community Relations Staff, Vice-President Janet Owens, Senior Associate Vice-President Fred Kittinger, Associate Vice President-Federal Tubby Shwedo, Executive Assistant Sharon Whitley, Program Manager Alison Schultz, and Coordinator Austin Wilson, Grey Robinson representatives, Christopher L. Carmody, Jr, and Kylee Anzueto, Wellness and Health Promotion Services Director, Stephanie Spies, Members of the

Florida Department of Children and Families including, Secretary Shevaun Harris, Chief of Staff Casey Penn, and Deputy Secretary Kathryn Williams.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES



Allison Pohlmann
Senate President

3/10/2025

Date



Danishka Morissette
Senate President Pro Tempore

03/25/2025

Date