

Basic needs services at Arkansas Northeastern College

Arkansas Northeastern College provides students with a variety of basic needs services including a food pantry; the Opportunity Bus (a bus to transport students who do not drive or have a way to get to campus); employment support and access to a career closet that allows students to use five outfits per semester; a mentoring program that includes workshops and referrals; financial support including assistance applying for SNAP; housing support; access to technology; and health care and personal care assistance.

Blytheville, Arkansas
Locale: Rural
Fall 2020 enrollment: 1,358
Students of color: 32%
Full-time students receiving Pell: 68%

- **Food pantry website** <https://www.anc.edu/communityrelations/foodpantry.htm>
- **Mentoring program website** <https://www.anc.edu/communityrelations/mentoring.htm>
- **Office of Community Relations website** <https://www.anc.edu/communityrelations/>
- **Office of Community Relations Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/ANCCCommunityRelations>

The college expanded the food pantry program by adding a mobile food pantry that travels across campus, and they partner with the Mississippi County Union Mission, which donates food for use in their food pantry. This was done in response to students who shared that they had no place to get food other than vending machines, and they could not afford to use the vending machines. Students also have access to a weekly \$10 gift card to the campus dining hall (the Sunshine Grill) to ensure access to a hot meal.

The mentoring program is offered to any students that use the food pantry or the Opportunity Bus. Mentors are volunteers from the community who have been screened and have participated in a training and an orientation about the basic needs services provided on campus. They connect students with internal and external resources and help them address barriers that come up throughout their academic journey.

“[We] really do take a holistic approach to this. Without these services, a lot of our students would not be able to successfully complete their program or just make it through the day.”

– Staff person at Arkansas Northeastern College