



TRITONS FEEDING TRITONS

FOOD SECURITY FOR OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY

As the cost of living has risen dramatically in California, UC San Diego has taken the initiative to meet the basic needs of our students.

Expanding options for food, housing and financial resilience is central to our educational mission, as students can only achieve their greatest potential when assured they can eat, shelter and focus on their studies without the threat of crisis. With the establishment of the **Basic Needs Hub (the Hub)**, our campus cultivates a spirit of dignity and compassion when developing supportive services, inviting students to access resources without feelings of obligation or shame. **Tritons take care of Tritons.**

The Hub's strategy for addressing food insecurity can be grouped into two broad branches — tactics that address acute, short-term needs and those that provide students sustainable support and build longer-term resilience. Led by Associated Students, **Triton Food Pantry** is supported by the Hub and operates in two locations; the second opened in 2020.

Anchored in a physical space, the service is simultaneously visible and discreet, **encouraging students to take their first step in meeting their nutritional needs** by simply showing their student ID. Triton Food Pantry serves as a gateway to longer-term supportive services, as students are assisted by peers who can answer questions about pantry operations and introduce them to more comprehensive support.

Your philanthropic support of **Triton Food Pantry** helps ensure full continuity from short-term or intermittent hunger to stable, reliable nutrition.

At UC San Diego, we believe that what we don't know today will forever change our tomorrows. Empowered by generosity and fueled by curiosity, we are unafraid to chase the unknown — to ask the questions no one has asked before and to push the boundaries of possibility. Together, we unite diverse people and unconventional perspectives to propel limitless impact. Because we know that when we come together, nothing is beyond us.

37 PERCENT

UC San Diego undergraduates unable to afford groceries (*University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey, 2022*)

39,558

Number of visits to the Triton Food Pantry for essential food items, free of charge, during the 2022-23 academic year

39 PERCENT

Triton Food Pantry users were first-generation college students in 2023

20 PERCENT

Increase in student credit card debt (*University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey, 2020*)



PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITY

UC San Diego alumni and friends can give back to our Triton community by making a gift of any size in support of Triton Food Pantry. Philanthropic support bolsters our capacity for meeting short-term needs, allowing better utilization of resources committed by the campus and state for the Basic Needs Hub's sustainable food security strategy.

» Accessing with dignity

Triton Food Pantry applies best practices of community food pantries generally, with a shopping experience designed to encourage good nutrition and fair distribution without precluding choice. Current challenges include limited accessibility for commuters, shrinking inventory and hours of operation that conflict with some students' schedules, shrinking inventory and hours of operation that conflict with some students' schedules.

» Sustainable food security

Beyond Triton Food Pantry, the Hub offers case management by a staff trained in the sensitivities and specific needs of our diverse student population. Referrals to the State of California's CalFresh program help students obtain vouchers for groceries, and similarly, the campus' iTable and Yes Food programs provide resources for international and undocumented students who are ineligible for CalFresh.

A partnership with DoorDash to underwrite grocery or meal deliveries to eligible students is a model for how our community can resolve unmet needs through the Hub's framework of dignified support.

» Lasting recognition

Future building plans in the new Ridge Walk North Living and Learning Neighborhood will increase the capacity of Triton Food Pantry with the addition of a new location. Substantial support of Triton Food Pantry may be recognized through naming of the physical space, recognizing your commitment to supporting student well-being, and eliminating food insecurity. Contact [Tiffany Ayres](#) to learn more.

WAYS TO GIVE

» **Philanthropic contribution** to the **Triton Pantry Gift Fund**

» **Donations from retailers or restaurants** of grocery or restaurant gift cards

» **In-kind contributions from grocery retailers** of food and/or non-perishable goods

We invite you to join UC San Diego's commitment to ensure every member of our student body has what they need to thrive personally and academically.

Together, with your philanthropic support, we can build a future where every Triton's basic needs are addressed while we collectively advocate for systemic change.

[Learn more at giving.ucsd.edu.](https://giving.ucsd.edu)

For more information on supporting the Triton Food Pantry, please contact:

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