

GSU4U RESOURCE TOOLKIT

Where to Start

GSU4U is an initiative coordinated by the Office of the Dean of Students dedicated to connecting students in need with the appropriate campus and community resources. Students can identify their needs and are provided with contact information for available resources.

Website: www.govst.edu/gsu4u

Office: C1310

Email: GSU4U@govst.edu

Phone: 708.235.2845

Jaguar Den is an initiative coordinated by Student Life which houses the Food Pantry, Career Closet, and Distribution of Emergency Necessities (DEN Bags). Student Life supports students through programmatic efforts.

Website: www.govst.edu/jaguarden

Office: A2100

Email: civicengagement@govst.edu

Phone: 708.235.7362

Housing Support

University Housing accepts housing applications and may offer a housing contract to students if space exists.

- Housing contracts are for 9 month or 12 month periods. There are no short term housing contracts. Students with 12 month contracts may stay year round, 9 month contracts may pay a per-night fee to stay during break periods (winter break & spring break). Summer contracts are also available.
- On-campus housing is only available for currently enrolled students. No family housing is available.
- housing@govst.edu, 708.235.7110, <http://www.govst.edu/housing/>

Housing Guest & Visitation Policy: An overnight guest in Prairie Place may stay a maximum of 48 hours within a seven-day period. Exceptions may be granted upon appeal to the Director of University Housing, if special circumstances exist. Guests must be registered and escorted by their residential host at all times. Full details on the guest policy is available in the Housing Handbook: www.govst.edu/housinghandbook

Emergency Shelter: There is no emergency shelter on campus. A list of local shelters is available on the GSU4U website. Students may meet with GSU4U staff to learn about options that are best suited for their situation.

Financial Aid

- The FAFSA contains three questions that ask about homelessness and this status must be verified.
- College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (CCRAA) expands the definition of “independent student” to include unaccompanied homeless youth. Specifically, the CCRAA states that youth who are 1) unaccompanied and homeless, or 2) unaccompanied, self-supporting and at-risk of homelessness at any time during the school year in which they sign the FAFSA, are considered independent.
- Financial Aid can work with students whose housing status has changed to reassess financial aid awards.
 - faid@govst.edu or 708.534.4480, Location D1400

Food Pantry & Food Preparation

GSU Food Pantry is available Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. by contacting Student Life in A2100. The Food Pantry also coordinates pop-up pantries around campus. Operation Healthy, a distribution of free fresh fruits and vegetables, takes place once a month in the Hall of Governors.

A list of local community food pantries is available on the GSU4U website. Near campus locations include the Faith Movers Church, 425 W. Exchange St., University Park, IL 60484 (Thursdays, 4-6pm)

Illinois LINK Card for SNAP Benefits: Illinois Hunger Coalition assists with completing LINK card applications for SNAP benefits. Illinois Hunger Coalition will be on-campus several times per semester. If students need assistance before the next on-campus date, please contact the Illinois Hunger Coalition Hunger Hotline at 800.359.2163 or online at <http://www.ilhunger.org>

Food Preparation: Microwaves are available in the café and in the Jaguar Den (A2140). University Housing offers kitchen facilities on each floor for residential student use.

Shower & Storage Facilities

The Recreation & Fitness Center includes shower and locker facilities. The Recreation & Fitness Center is open seven days a week during the fall and spring semesters, and closed on Sundays during the summer session.

Student lockers are available from the Recreation & Fitness Center for \$5.00 per term. Lockers may be used for storage for books and other academic materials, documents, valuables.

Students who wish to coordinate shower times or a free locker rental should contact Student Life.

Books & Course Materials

Students may use financial aid to purchase course materials in the GSU Bookstore via FA Link prior to financial aid disbursement. University Library can assist with locating course texts via the interlibrary loan system.

D.E.N. Bags (Distributing Emergency Necessities)

Students in need of toiletries or change of clothes can receive a free DEN Bag from the Jaguar Den.

Career Closet

The Career Closet, located in the Jaguar Den provides students access to free professional and business casual attire appropriate for career fairs, interviews, and the workplace.

Technology Support

- CUBE and Library offer computers for student use and many common programs needed for classes.
- Library maintains a supply of phone chargers for students to borrow while using the library.

Academic & Personal Support

Health & Student Counseling Center provides free medical services and counseling services to enrolled students.

- www.govst.edu/health-and-counseling. Medical appointments online. Counseling appointments contact 708.235.7334 or studentcounseling@govst.edu. Location A1120

Undergraduate Advising Center offers academic advising to undergraduate students. 708.534.8043 or advising@govst.edu. Location C3385