

GEOL 1301 – Natural Hazards & Disasters
(Distance Learning – Asynchronous)

Fall 2026

Section: 003| Synonym: 39231

SECTION INFORMATION

Section 003, Synonym 39231

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor: Kusali Gamage

Email: kgamage@austincc.edu — Email is the best and fastest way to reach me.

Office Hours: Thursday, 4:00–6:00 p.m., by appointment, and as otherwise announced in Blackboard.

Office hours are conducted virtually through Zoom. The current meeting information is posted in Blackboard. Conferences outside office hours can be arranged by email. Meeting ID: 931 0357 1236 | Passcode: GEOLOFFICE

Blackboard is the primary course communication and learning-management system.

Students will use the Blackboard learning management system for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, collaboration, and office hours.

COURSE INFORMATION

Credit Hours: 3

Asynchronous Classroom Contact Hours per week: 3

This course provides a survey of earth sciences through an examination of natural hazards including causes and effects of earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, floods, landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, climate change, and impacts of extraterrestrial objects. Material will focus on personal and societal adjustments to these hazards.

COURSE RATIONALE

As the world's population grows and expands, humans are encountering natural hazards more frequently, and are contributing to a rapid change in the world's climate. College-educated consumers, voters, and decision-makers need to understand the scope and impact of these changes and the limitations that science and technology have in reducing their negative effects. Studying natural hazards provides a valuable perspective for this understanding. This is a general survey course that does not count towards a major in the geological sciences.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of earth sciences through an examination of natural hazards including causes and effects, of earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, floods, landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, climate change, and impacts of extraterrestrial objects. Discussion will focus on personal and societal adjustments to these hazards.

PREREQUISITES

Reading proficiency on Texas Success Initiative (TSI) testing or are TSI exempt; knowledge of high school and middle school mathematics is required.

COURSE INFORMATION

MANDATORY ORIENTATION AND QUIZ

The mandatory orientation requires you to review information listed under “Start Here” on Blackboard. Once you finish reviewing the material take the orientation quiz at the bottom of the page. **You will be dropped from the class if you do not complete the orientation quiz by August 25, 2026 (No extensions allowed).** The orientation quiz can be taken as many times as you need to get all the questions right.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Identify earth processes that affect and interact with our civilization, especially those that create hazards.

- Apply basic principles of geology, meteorology, oceanography, and solar system astronomy to the study of natural hazards.
- Identify the methods scientists use to predict and assess the risk of natural hazards.
- Identify the natural hazards that threaten Central Texas. Minimize the personal and societal consequences of natural hazards that threaten Central Texas.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes

- **Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:**
- describe the scientific method as applied in the earth sciences; and
- describe common earth materials and their relationship to natural hazards; and
- explain how Earth and Solar System processes create hazards to life and property; and
- describe and explain the most common methods used to mitigate and prepare for each type of hazardous natural process; and
- explain the causes and effects of global climate change.

Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes for Geology

- **Upon successful completion of the geology program, students will be able to:**
- describe the scientific method and apply it in a geological context; and
- describe Earth's major systems and explain how they interact; and
- identify common rocks, minerals, and fossils and interpret how they form; and
- describe and interpret the development of landforms and geologic structures; and
- describe the sedimentological, paleoclimatic, tectonic, and biological history of the Earth with a focus on North America; and

- construct and interpret geologic, stratigraphic, and topographic maps, cross-sections, and topographic profiles; and
- explain the plate tectonic theory and its relationship to earth processes, features, and landforms.

General education competencies

- Communication Skills – Develop, interpret and express ideas and information through written and visual communication that is adapted to purpose, structure, audience and medium.
- Critical Thinking Skills – Gather, analyze, synthesize, evaluate and apply information for the purposes of innovation, inquiry and creative thinking.
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills – Apply mathematical, logical and scientific principles and methods through the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- Teamwork – Consider different points of view to work collaboratively and effectively in pursuit of a shared purpose or goal.
- Per the General Education requirements in the master syllabus, this class includes a writing assignment, visual communication assignment, critical thinking assignment, empirical/quantitative skills assignment, and teamwork assignment. These are addressed through module discussions, exam/graph and diagram analysis, and the visual communication activity described below.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook: *Natural Hazards: Earth's Processes as Hazards, Disasters, and Catastrophes* (5th Ed.), by Edward A. Keller and Duane E. DeVecchio.

- You may purchase a paper text or the eText, whichever you prefer.
- 4th edition is acceptable.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

The online section has no physical classroom component. All learning activities are completed online through Blackboard.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Online learning requires effective time management and study skills. Students new to distance education are encouraged to review the ACC Distance Education General Information available at <https://online.austincc.edu/faq/>.

Students will use the Blackboard learning management system for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, collaboration, and office hours.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES

Austin Community College provides free, secure drive-up WiFi to students and employees in the parking lots of all campus locations. WiFi can be accessed seven days a week, 7 am to 11 pm. Additional details are available at <https://www.austincc.edu/sts>.

Students who do not have the necessary technology to complete their ACC courses can request to borrow devices from Student Technology Services. Available devices include iPads, webcams, headsets, calculators, etc. Students must be registered for a credit course, Adult Education, or Continuing Education course to be eligible. For more information, including how to request a device, visit <http://www.austincc.edu/sts>.

Student Technology Services offers phone, live-chat, and email-based technical support for students and can provide support on topics such as password resets, accessing or using Blackboard, access to technology, etc. To view hours of operation and ways to request support, visit <http://www.austincc.edu/sts>.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is divided into three modules, each containing four to five chapters. The chapters and modules must be completed in order. For each chapter, you will need to:

- Watch the lecture video
- Read the chapter in the textbook.
- View the supplementary videos, documentaries, and animations linked on the Blackboard site.
- Take the quiz for each chapter
- Answer the discussion questions
- Take the Module Exam

COURSE GRADE

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Examinations (3)	300 points
Orientation Quiz	20 points
Chapter Quizzes + infographic project	280 points
Module Discussion	100 points
TOTAL	700 possible points

The following scale will be used to determine your course grade:

A	627 or more points
B	557 to 626 points
C	487 to 556 points
D	417 to 486 points
F	416 or fewer points

EXAMINATIONS

The course is divided into three modules. Each module is tested separately, for a total of three examinations given in this course. (See lecture and exam schedule on the last page for more information.)

- **There are mandatory exam deadlines that will be enforced by the instructor.**
- **You must take all 3 required exams in order to pass the class.**
- **NOTE: If you do not prepare for the exams ahead of time you will not be able to successfully complete the exam in the allowed time.**
- **Exams can be taken on any computer that can access Blackboard.**
- **There are no retakes.**

Questions will be drawn from the textbook (including diagrams and graphs), lecture, any other assigned videos, documentaries and chapter quizzes which focus on the key material for each chapter. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and interpreting diagrams and graphs. Exam grades will be posted on Blackboard. Your quiz and exam grades are available through Blackboard, allowing you to monitor your progress throughout the course.

QUIZZES

Online quizzes will be given for each chapter covered in the module. These quizzes will help you assess if you are ready to take the exam for the module. **Quizzes can be taken on any computer that can access Blackboard.** Each chapter quiz can be taken twice. You have 1 hour to complete the quiz at each attempt. The highest grade will be recorded. All quizzes are available to you as soon as the course begins. You are welcome to work through the material at an accelerated pace and take the quizzes whenever you are ready. **Once the Exam deadline is passed, you will no longer have access to chapter quizzes from that module.**

DISCUSSION

For each module, there are assigned discussion question/s. You will need to post an original thread with the answers to discussion questions and respond to at least one classmate's responses. Inappropriate posts will be deleted. **Once the Exam deadline is passed, you will no longer have access to discussion questions from that module.**

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

This is an asynchronous online course. Regular and timely participation is expected through completion of assigned readings, videos, quizzes, discussions, and other course activities by the posted deadlines. Discussion participation is mandatory and includes posting an original response and responding to at least one classmate when assigned. Students are responsible for regularly checking Blackboard and keeping up with course announcements, assignments, and deadlines. If participation or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw the student from the class.

MISSED EXAMS & LATE WORK POLICIES

Examinations have mandatory deadlines. There are no exam retakes. Students who miss an exam or submit work late must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Any make-up or late-work decision will be handled according to ACC policy and the instructor's documented course policy.

COURSE-SPECIFIC ONLINE POLICIES

ACC Email

You must use your ACC-provided email address for this class. Your ACC email address is the official email address used for Blackboard notices and instructor communication. You may forward ACC email to another address if you prefer.

Email Netiquette

- All assignments, quizzes, and exams should be completed and submitted within Blackboard. Emailed assignments will not be graded.
- Avoid ALL CAPS; typing in all caps is interpreted as yelling.
- Write a brief and concise description of the content of your email in the subject line.
- Proofread your writing and use appropriate grammar.
- Begin your email by stating the name of the receiver and finish by typing your name and course name.
- Keep email communication brief and concise.

Blackboard

A Blackboard site has been set up for this class. You will use Blackboard extensively to access course materials. Announcements and grades will be posted on Blackboard, and Blackboard will be used to send emails to the class. You may also use Blackboard to communicate and collaborate with other students enrolled in the course.

Online Tutoring

ACC offers free online tutoring for students. Please check <https://www.austincc.edu/students/tutoring/online> for current services.

ACCeID

You need an ACCeID to use Blackboard and ACC Online. If you do not already have an ACCeID, go to <https://acceid.austincc.edu/idm/user/login.jsp> and follow the First-Time Login instructions.

COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

All class materials provided on ACC web pages, electronic reserves, on disk, and in printed form are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the written consent of the copyright holder. Reproduction means photocopying, scanning, copying downloaded files, or posting any of these on a server (website).

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (GAI) POLICY

Definition: Generative AI refers to artificial intelligence systems that generate text, images, or other content based on minimal human input. Examples: ChatGPT, Gemini, etc.

Purpose: GAI is permitted to enhance learning and technological fluency, **but it must not replace critical thinking or personal understanding.**

Usage Permissions: Allowed for **initial research, idea generation, and clarifying concepts.** **Not allowed** for final submissions, exams, or final identification of rocks, minerals, fossils, or wildlife. For research papers, GAI **cannot generate images, maps, or diagrams.**

Use of OpenAI/ChatGPT and Other AI Tools: **All use must be transparent, cited, and acknowledged.** Include a **citation** and a **brief statement** explaining how AI was used. AI is **not a substitute** for your own analysis or understanding.

Citation Examples:

- **APA (7th ed.):** OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>
In-text: (OpenAI, 2023)
- **MLA (9th ed.):** OpenAI. *ChatGPT*. 2023, <https://chat.openai.com/>
In-text: (OpenAI)
- **ACC Library AI Guide:** <https://library.austincc.edu/ai>

Example Statements:

- “I used ChatGPT to generate an outline of key ideas, then revised, fact-checked, and expanded in my own words.”
- “I used ChatGPT to rephrase my draft for clarity; ideas and structure are my own.”
- “I used ChatGPT to explain a concept (e.g., plate tectonics) in simpler terms before writing my own response.”

Responsible Use & Academic Integrity: Verify GAI content; it can be inaccurate. Properly cite all AI-generated content. Misuse, including **failure to disclose**, is academic dishonesty (ACC Academic Integrity Policy). Contributions of GAI must be clearly cited and will be assessed on the student’s **ability to critically analyze and integrate the AI-generated content.** Exceptions are considered case-by-case if GAI is required as an accommodation.

Privacy & Security: Do not share sensitive or personally identifiable information. Platform operators may access content, so ensure all data is accurate and non-sensitive.

Bias & Accuracy: GAI may produce biased or inaccurate information. Students must critically evaluate and verify content before using it in assignments.

Summary of Academic Honesty: Presenting AI-generated content as your own is a violation of academic integrity. All work must reflect your understanding and effort. When in doubt, **consult your instructor** before using AI tools.

WITHDRAWALS

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the rolls should they decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is recorded before the Final Withdrawal Date. **The Final Withdrawal Date for Fall 2026 is Thursday, November 19.** Students are strongly encouraged to keep any paperwork in case a problem arises.

Students are responsible for understanding the impact that withdrawal from a course may have on their financial aid, veterans' benefits, and international student status. Per state law, students enrolling for the first time in Fall 2007 or later at any public Texas college or university may not withdraw (receive a "W") from more than six courses during their undergraduate college education. Some exemptions for good cause could allow a student to withdraw from a course without having it count toward this limit. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor when making decisions about course selection, course loads, and course withdrawals.

INCOMPLETES

An incomplete (grade of "I") will only be given for extenuating circumstances. What constitutes "extenuating circumstances" is left to the instructor's discretion, while following any rules or guidelines set by the department.

Students may request an Incomplete from their faculty member if they believe circumstances warrant. The faculty member will determine whether the Incomplete is appropriate to award or not. Prior to the end of the semester in which the "I" is to be awarded, the student must meet with the instructor to determine the assignments and exams that must be completed and the deadline. The faculty member and student must complete the required Report of Incomplete Grade form.

An incomplete may be considered when a student has been completing the course on a regular basis, has completed and passed at least 2 of the 3 exams with a minimum average grade of C (70%), has completed more than half of the course assignments, and has requested the Incomplete in writing with appropriate documentation. These criteria do not override ACC or departmental requirements.

Students must complete all remaining work by the date specified on the Incomplete form. If an Incomplete is not resolved by the deadline, the grade automatically converts to an F. Approval to carry an Incomplete for longer than the following semester or session deadline is not frequently granted. **If a grade of I is given, the remaining exam/lab quiz and all other incomplete work must be completed and submitted for grading via Blackboard before April 5, 2027.**

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Students enrolled in this course are expected to comply with the provisions of this syllabus and the Student Code of Conduct. With the exception of scholastic dishonesty, violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be reported to the Campus Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action. Any student suspected of scholastic dishonesty will meet in private with the professor to discuss the alleged offense(s) and review the evidence that supports the charge. After conferring with the student, the professor will dismiss the allegation or assess an academic penalty. A student will be informed in writing if an academic penalty is assessed. He or she should consult the Student Handbook for his/her rights and responsibilities.

GEOL 1301 - Natural Hazards and Disasters (ONL) Class Schedule

Schedule changes may occur. Any changes will be announced on Blackboard and via email.

Module	CHAPTER	TOPIC	RECOMMENDED QUIZ SCHEDULE	EXAM	EXAM, DISCUSSION, CHAPTER QUIZZES DEADLINE
	--	Mandatory Orientation, Orientation Quiz		--	8/25
1	1	Introduction to Natural Hazards	8/24	Exam 1 (CH 1-5)	9/25
	2, Appendix A, B, D	Plate Tectonics Module 1 Discussion #1	9/1		
	3	Earthquakes5	9/8		

Module	CHAPTER	TOPIC	RECOMMENDED QUIZ SCHEDULE	EXAM	EXAM, DISCUSSION, CHAPTER QUIZZES DEADLINE
		Module 1 Discussion #2			
	4	Tsunamis	9/15		
	5	Volcanoes Module 1 Discussion #3	9/22		
2	6	Flooding Module 2 Discussion #1	9/29	Exam 2 (CH 6-10)	11/2
	7	Mass Wasting	10/6		
	8	Subsidence and Soils	10/13		
	9	Severe Weather	10/20		
	10	Hurricanes and Extratropical Cyclones Module 2 Discussion #2	10/27		
3	11	Coastal Hazards Module 3 Discussion #1	11/3	Exam 3 (CH 11-14)	12/10
	12	Climate and Climate Change Natural Hazards Risk Communication Infographic Project (see Module 3 folder)	11/10 11/16		
	13	Wildfires Module 3 Discussion #2	11/17		
	14	Impacts and Extinctions	12/1		

COLLEGE POLICIES

Health & Safety Protocols

Operational areas of ACC campuses and centers are fully open and accessible through all public entrances. The college encourages its staff, faculty, and students to be mindful of the well-being of all individuals on campus. If you feel sick, feverish, or unwell, please do not come to campus.

Statement on Academic Integrity

Austin Community College values academic integrity in the educational process. Acts of academic dishonesty/misconduct undermine the learning process, present a disadvantage to students who earn credit honestly, and subvert the academic mission of the institution. The potential consequences of fraudulent credentials raise additional concerns for individuals and communities beyond campus who rely on institutions of higher learning to certify students' academic achievements and expect to benefit from the claimed knowledge and skills of their graduates. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, falsifying documents, or the inappropriate use of the college's information technology resources. Further information is available at the [Academic Integrity website](#).

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students at ACC have the same rights and protections under the Constitution of the United States. These rights include freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition and association. As members of the community, students have the right to express their own views, but must also take responsibility for according the same rights to others and not interfere or disrupt the learning environment. Students are entitled to fair treatment, are expected to act consistently with the values of the college, and obey local, state, and federal laws. [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)

As a student of Austin Community College you are expected to abide by the [Student Standards of Conduct](#).

Senate Bill 212 and Title IX Reporting Requirements

Under Senate Bill 212 (SB 212), the faculty and all College employees are required to report any information concerning incidents of **sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking** committed by or against an ACC student or employee. Federal Title IX law and College policy also require reporting incidents of **sex- and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct. This means faculty and non-clinical counseling staff cannot keep confidential information about any such incidents that you share with them.**

If you would like to talk with someone confidentially, please contact the District Clinical Counseling Team who can connect you with a clinical counselor on any ACC campus: (512) 223-2616, or to schedule online, go to the [Counseling website](#).

While students are not required to report, they are encouraged to contact the Compliance Office for resources and options: Charlene Buckley, District Title IX Officer, (512) 223-7964; compliance@austincc.edu.

If a student makes a report to a faculty member, the faculty member will contact the District Title IX Officer for follow-up.

Student Complaints

A defined process applies to complaints about an instructor or other college employee. You are encouraged to discuss concerns and complaints with college personnel and should expect a timely and appropriate response. When possible, students should first address their concerns through informal conferences with those immediately involved; formal due process is available when informal resolution cannot be achieved.

Student complaints may include (but are not limited to) issues regarding classroom instruction, college services and offices on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability.

Further information about the complaints process, including the form used to submit complaints, is available at the [Student Complaint Procedures website](#).

Statement on Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects confidentiality of students' educational records. Grades cannot be provided by faculty over the phone, by e-mail, or to a fellow student.

Recording Policy

To ensure compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student recording of class lectures or other activities is generally prohibited without the explicit written permission of the instructor and notification of other students enrolled in the class section. Exceptions are made for approved accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Recording of lectures and other class activities may be made by faculty to facilitate instruction, especially for classes taught remotely through BlackBoard or another platform. Participation in such activities implies consent for the student to be recorded during the instructional activity. Such recordings are intended for educational and academic purposes only.

Safety Statement

Health and safety are of paramount importance in classrooms, laboratories, and field activities. Students are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Emergency Procedures posters and Campus Safety Plans are posted in each classroom and should be reviewed at the beginning of each semester. All incidents (injuries/illness/fire/property damage/near miss) should be immediately reported to the course instructor. Additional information about safety procedures and how to sign up to be notified in case of an emergency can be found at the [Emergency Management website](#).

Everyone is expected to conduct themselves professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual may be immediately dismissed from the day's activity and will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action.

In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an emergency situation or an outbreak of illness, the format for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. In that event, students will be provided an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version.

Smoke, Vaping, & Tobacco-Free Environment

ACC provides a smoke/vape- and tobacco-free environment for all College vehicles, facilities and all campuses. The College prohibits the use, distribution, and/or sale of tobacco, smoke, and nicotine vapor products and devices by any person on all premises owned, rented, leased or supervised by the College, including all College facilities, buildings, grounds, and vehicles. This prohibition applies to property owned by others that the College uses by agreement, and further applies to all College and personal vehicles on ACC District property. Campus Managers and Campus Coordinators are required to inform anyone on their campus or in their center who are violating this rule that they are doing so and, if the violator is a student, the Dean of Student Affairs must initiate disciplinary procedures.

Campus Carry

The Austin Community College District concealed handgun policy ensures compliance with Section 411.2031 of the Texas Government Code (also known as the Campus Carry Law), while maintaining ACC's commitment to provide a safe environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Beginning August 1, 2017, individuals who are licensed to carry (LTC) may do so on campus premises except in locations and at activities prohibited by state or federal law, or the college's concealed handgun policy.

It is the responsibility of license holders to conceal their handguns at all times. Persons who see a handgun on campus are asked to contact the ACC Police Department by dialing 512-223-1231. Please refer to the concealed handgun policy online at the [Campus Carry website](#).

Discrimination Prohibited

The College seeks to maintain an educational environment free from any form of discrimination or harassment including but not limited to discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Faculty at the College are required to report concerns regarding sexual misconduct (including all forms of sexual harassment and sex and gender-based discrimination) to the Manager of Title IX/Title VI/ADA Compliance. Licensed clinical counselors are available across the District and serve as confidential resources for students.

Additional information about Title VI, Title IX, and ADA compliance can be found in the [ACC Compliance Resource Guide](#).

Use of ACC email

All College e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student's ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify students of any college-related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Information about ACC email accounts, including instructions for accessing it, are available at the [ACC Email Q&A website](#).

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The success of our students is paramount, and ACC offers a variety of support services to help, as well as providing numerous opportunities for community engagement and personal growth.

Student Support

ACC strives to provide exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. Information on these campus services and resources is available at the [Student Resources website](#). A comprehensive array of student support services is available online at the [Student Support website](#).

Student Accessibility Services

Austin Community College (ACC) is committed to providing a supportive, accessible, and inclusive learning environment for all students. Each campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

Students are encouraged to request accommodations prior to the beginning of the semester, otherwise the provision of accommodations may be delayed. Students who have received accommodations from SAS for this course will provide the instructor with the legal document titled "Faculty Notification Letter" (FNL) through the

Accessible Information Management (AIM) portal.

Until the instructor receives the FNL, accommodations should not be provided. Once the FNL is received, accommodations must be provided. Accommodations are not retroactive, so it is in the student's best interest to request their accommodations as soon as possible prior to the beginning of the semester.

Please contact SAS@austincc.edu for more information.

Student Technology Support

Austin Community College provides free, secure WiFi to students and employees at all campus locations.

Students who do not have the necessary technology to complete their ACC courses can request to borrow devices from Student Technology Services. Available devices include iPads, webcams, headsets, calculators, etc. Students must be registered for a credit course, Adult Education, or Continuing Education course to be eligible. For more information, including how to request a device, visit [Student Technology Access](#).

Student Technology Services offers phone, live-chat, and email-based technical support for students and can provide support on topics such as password resets, accessing or using Blackboard, access to technology, etc. To view hours of operation and ways to request support, visit [Student Technology Access](#)

Academic Support

ACC offers academic support services on all of its campuses. These services, which include online tutoring, academic coaching, and supplemental instruction, are free to enrolled ACC students. Tutors are available in a variety of subjects ranging from accounting to pharmacology. Students may receive these services on both a drop-in and referral basis.

Additional tutoring information can be found here: [Online Tutoring](#)

Library Services

ACC Library Services offers both in-person and extensive online services, with research and assignment assistance available in-person during limited hours of service. Although all college services are subject to change, plans include ACC students signing up for study space and use of computers at open libraries, extensive online instruction in classes, online reference assistance 24/7 and reference with ACC faculty librarians. In addition, currently enrolled students, faculty and staff can access Library Services online (also 24/7) via the ACC Library website and by using their ACCeID to access all online materials (ebooks, articles from library databases, and streaming videos). ACC Libraries offer these services in numerous ways such as: "Get Help from a Faculty Librarian: the 24/7 Ask a Librarian chat service," an online form for in-depth research Q and A sessions, one-on-one video appointments, email, and phone (voicemail is monitored regularly).

- [Library Website](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#) 24/7 chat and form
- [Library Hours of Operation by Location](#)

- Email: library@austincc.edu

Parent and Family Engagement Services

ACC understands how important parent and family support is to every student's college journey. From parents and siblings to stepparents, grandparents, partners, and loved ones, the Parent and Family Engagement Office at ACC is committed to empowering families to support student success. The office provides a family orientation to ACC, free [workshops](#) explaining the world of higher education (financial aid, student resources, career and transfer services, etc.), a monthly [newsletter](#) full of student success tips, and a website designed to answer family members' frequently asked questions. All students, especially first-generation students, are encouraged to share these resources with their families and invite them to be part of the Riverbat experience. Contact familyengagement@austincc.edu or visit the [Parent & Family Engagement website](#) for more information.

Academic Adjustments for Pregnant Students

ACC works with each student to provide academic adjustments that best meet their needs, including for students who are pregnant. Examples of such adjustments may include but are not limited to:

- Breaks during class, as needed
- Excused absences or a leave of absence
- Making up missed assignments or assessments
- Additional time to complete assignments in the same manner as the institution allows for a student with a temporary medical condition

Additional examples and further information are available at the Accommodations for Pregnant Students [website](#). To request adjustments due to pregnancy, contact equalopportunity@austincc.edu

Student Organizations

ACC has over seventy student organizations, offering a variety of cultural, academic, vocational, and social opportunities. They provide a chance to meet with other students who have the same interests, engage in service-learning, participate in intramural sports, gain valuable field experience related to career goals, and much else. Student Life coordinates many of these activities, and additional information is available at the [Student Life website](#).

Personal Support

Resources to support students are available at every campus. To learn more, ask your professor or visit the campus Support Center. All resources and services are free and confidential. Some examples include, among others:

- Food resources including community pantries and bank drives can be found here at the [Central Texas Food Bank website](#).
- Assistance with childcare or utility bills is available at any campus [Support Center](#)
- The [Student Emergency Fund](#) can help with unexpected expenses that may cause you to withdraw from one or more classes
- Help with budgeting for college and family life is available through the [Student Money Management Office](#).
- A full listing of services for student parents is available at the [Child Care website](#).

Mental health counseling services are available throughout the ACC Student Services District to address personal and or mental health concerns at the [Counseling website](#).

If you are struggling with a mental health or personal crisis, call one of the following numbers to connect with resources for help. However, if you are afraid that you might hurt yourself or someone else, call 911 immediately.

Free Crisis Hotline Numbers:

- Austin / Travis County 24-hour Crisis & Suicide hotline: **512-472-HELP (4357)**
- The Williamson County 24-hour Crisis hotline: **1-800-841-1255**
- Bastrop County Family Crisis Center hotline: **1-888-311-7755**
- Hays County 24 Hour Crisis Hotline: **1-877-466-0660**
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **988** or **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
- Crisis Text Line: **Text “home” to 741741**
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline: **1-800-662-HELP (4357)**
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Helpline: **1-800-950-NAMI (6264)**

