

Rethinking what food security means to students
Nicole Peterson and Andrea Freidus, UNC Charlotte

Definitions of food insecurity can be poorly aligned with student experiences, based on our research in collaboration with the UNCC Jamil Niner Student Pantry. Interview data identify time, stigma, transportation, and quality of food as central aspects of student experiences with food insecurity, beyond the financial concerns addressed in the USDA's food security module. In addition, focus groups and surveys suggest how food insecurity intersects with a variety of other issues of access, including transportation, housing, healthcare, and digital access. In all, we found the combination of methods critical for a more holistic picture of student experiences with food access.