

TO: SUNY Cortland Faculty Senate  
FROM: Education Policy Committee  
DATE: October 16, 2024  
RE: Addition of Basic Needs Statement to course syllabi

**Origin**

Earlier in the year, SUNY made a strong recommendation that all campuses included a Basic Needs statement on course syllabi. On September 13, 2024 the Provost asked the Education Policy Committee (EPC) to review the Cortland Cupboard's current statement and discuss the addition of a basic needs statement to all course syllabi as a recommended policy.

**Rationale**

The purpose is to increase awareness about the Cortland Cupboard campus wide and promote the well-being of SUNY Cortland students. The Cortland Cupboard's Mission Statement provides the rationale for this proposal.

**Cortland Cupboard's Mission Statement**

Address food insecurity of SUNY Cortland students in need by providing them with food items and personal care products in a respectful and private manner at no cost, thereby promoting their well-being and helping them pursue academic excellence.

**Conclusion**

The EPC has voted in favor of a recommended policy that department chairs and faculty members add the Cortland Cupboard's Basic Needs Statement to the course syllabi. This is a recommended policy, thus leaving application up to individual departments and faculty. The Cortland Cupboard's Basic Needs Statement reads as follows:

*Resources are available for any SUNY Cortland student who has difficulty affording groceries or who lacks a safe and stable living environment, all of which can hurt their performance in this course. Please visit [cortland.edu/cupboard](https://cortland.edu/cupboard) for more information.*