

State University System

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Affordability

Report

Fall 2019



AFFORDABILITY REPORTS

FALL 2019

Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes, establishes requirements regarding the textbook and instructional materials adoption process at public colleges and institutions in Florida. The law requires each institution's board of trustees in the State University System to submit an annual report by September 30 of each year, beginning in 2016, to the Chancellor of the State University System. In 2019, Chapter 2019-4, Laws of Florida removed subsections (4) and (8) of section 1004.085, Florida Statutes. Each institution's report is required to address four components.

- The selection process for textbooks and instructional materials for general education courses identified with high enrollments.
- Specific initiatives of each institution designed to reduce the costs of textbooks and instructional materials.
- Institution policies implemented for the posting of textbooks and instructional materials information for students.
- The number of courses and course sections that did not meet the textbook and instructional materials posting deadline in the previous academic year.

The following is a summary of the 2019 institution reports. Individual institution reports will be posted to the Board of Governors website.

Textbook and Instructional Materials Selection Process for General Education Courses

For general education courses, the institutions reported that the selection of materials for course assignments is completed by individual faculty members or as collective faculty within a department. One institution reported that department chairs collaborate with faculty to select common course materials for all sections of each general education course.

Specific Initiatives Designed to Reduce Costs

Institutions reported a variety of initiatives to reduce the cost of textbooks and instructional materials. Examples of faculty, student, and bookstore initiatives that are common across multiple institutions are outlined below, and more detail is available in the individual reports.

Faculty-Focused Initiatives

- ✓ Improving the course materials adoption process to include options and pricing information resulting in greater efficiency and compliance

- ✓ Incentivizing faculty to adopt, adapt, or author free or low-cost course materials
- ✓ Expanding the use of common materials
- ✓ Developing instructional materials in the departments and assisting faculty in locating open-access and alternative materials
- ✓ Providing faculty members and administrators a timeline for actions and reminders

Student-Focused Initiatives

- ✓ Providing information on textbook and instructional materials prior to or during registration
- ✓ Establishing textbook loan programs and lending libraries
- ✓ Providing no-cost instructional materials on reserve in the library
- ✓ Maintaining current course materials information on the bookstore portal

Institution Bookstore Student Assistance Programs

- ✓ Offering a variety of options including new and used print and digital
- ✓ Providing textbook rental programs for print and digital versions
- ✓ Allowing a line of credit or book vouchers for students awaiting financial aid
- ✓ Offering bookstore price-match guarantee programs

Institution-Wide Programs

All institutions also have specific institutional initiatives related to textbook affordability. More information on these can be found in the individual reports, but select examples are provided below:

- ✓ Florida Atlantic University piloted the Inclusive Access-First Day Program, which provided electronic textbooks and course materials at a 40% discount on an opt-in basis. Students who opted-in received their course materials electronically by the first day of class. Overall, 89 students participated and saved more than \$5,000 in the program. The university is expanding the program to students in 15 additional courses in fall 2019.
- ✓ Florida State University is developing a pilot program for using library-licensed e-books in the classroom, forming open resource adoption committees to analyze and promote high-quality open educational resources across multiple disciplines, and integrating the use of open textbooks in existing course redesign programs.
- ✓ Florida International University's (FIU) Affordability Counts Initiative lowers the cost of course materials to \$20 or less per credit. As of June 2019, over 244 faculty have participated in the program, with 327 courses designated as "affordable courses." Since the inception of the program, FIU courses awarded the Affordability Counts

medallion have saved students over \$1,212,000. FIU is also hosting the Affordability Counts Initiative for the System. To date, five State University System institutions and two Florida College System institutions have committed to partnering with FIU in launching the initiative at their respective institutions.

- ✓ The University of Central Florida libraries partnered with the Student Government Association and Knights Pantry for the Textbook Donation Drive at the end of the spring 2019 term.
- ✓ The University of Florida (UF) has established the Affordable UF Initiative, which includes three programs designed to reduce textbook and instructional material costs to students. The first is Xronos, an open-source interactive textbook and instructional materials platform that allows faculty to create content and interactive assignments and make them available at no cost to the students. Another program is Affordable UF Badges that identifies courses with materials and fees costing less than \$20 per credit hour. Finally, the university is increasing the collections of textbooks for high enrollment courses at the university libraries.
- ✓ E-Books for the Classroom+ at the University of South Florida provides open access to over 600,000 e-books and allows faculty to select a library-supplied e-book with little to no restrictions on use in lieu of a traditional textbook. This results in zero cost to the student. The savings to students for fall 2018 and spring 2019 was \$704,101.
- ✓ The University of West Florida Textbook Affordability Program provides one copy of each textbook required for all undergraduate courses to borrow through the library. During the 2018-2019 academic year, students had access to 2,528 textbooks and borrowed them 15,432 times. The program saved students \$1,301,535.

System-Wide Initiative

The Board of Governors approved a system-wide Action Plan for the Pricing of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials at its August 29, 2019, meeting. The goal of this initiative is to provide students with access to quality and affordable textbooks and instructional materials. The initiative will also help ensure that students throughout the System will be paying consistent prices for the same materials.

Components of the initiative include the following.

- Student cost of course materials, including pricing mark-ups by university bookstore vendors, is (a) \$20 or less per credit hour or (b) more than \$20 per credit hour, but at a noticeably lower retail cost than students would otherwise pay
- The format of materials that meet the pricing described are identified as either print, digital, or both
- Students have access to materials on the first day of class and continue to have access to digital materials beyond the end of the course
- Students have the option for print-on-demand for digital materials
- Accessibility for students with disabilities is available
- Bookstore vendors develop mechanisms for capturing and reporting faculty use of open education resources and other no-cost resources
- Institutions have access to data for reporting purposes

By January 20 of each year beginning in 2020, publishers will have available for faculty review and consideration the list of materials that meet the components of the initiative. Each institution will be required to report the number of course sections that met the pricing goal of \$20 or less per credit hour for required course materials in the annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report due to the Chancellor by September 30, beginning with the 2021 report.

Institution Policies and Processes for Posting Information for Students

Institutions reported various policies and processes for ensuring the textbook and instructional materials posting requirement is met and includes the following:

- Requiring the textbook and instructional materials adoption information prior to the required 45-day posting deadline
- Providing faculty with a list of courses without adopted course materials in advance of the posting deadline
- Monitoring compliance of the posting of information for required course materials on the institution websites

Course Sections Meeting and Not Meeting the 45-Day Posting Requirement

Florida statute requires institutions to post a hyperlink to lists of the required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials for at least 95% of all courses and course sections at least 45 days prior to the start of classes for each term. For the 2019 report, 10 of the 12 institutions met the 95% threshold for the fall 2018 semester and 11 of the 12 institutions met the 95% threshold for the spring 2019 semester.¹ Table 1 provides a summary of the percentage of course sections meeting and not meeting the 45-day posting requirement.

Table 1: Course Sections Meeting the 45-Day Posting Requirement for Academic Year 2018-2019

SUS Institution	Fall 2018			Spring 2018		
	Total Courses	Met	Not Met	Total Courses	Met	Not Met
FAMU	2,363	99%	1%	1,824	99%	<1%
FAU	6,207	95%	5%	4,946	97%	3%
FGCU	2,100	84%*	16%	2,139	91%*	9%
FIU	7,189	97%	3%	7,093	99%	1%
FL POLY	266	99%	1%	235	99%	<1%
FSU	10,844	98%	2%	11,037	99%	1%
NCF	219	90%**	10%	223	99%	1%
UCF	6,106	95%	5%	6,126	97%	3%
UF	11,682	99%	1%	12,406	98%	2%
UNF	2,546	95%	5%	2,536	95%	5%
USF	5,993	98%	2%	8,633	97%	3%
UWF	2,238	98%	2%	2,181	100%	0%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2019.

*FGCU did not meet the 95% threshold for fall 2018 or spring 2019 and are therefore noncompliant with Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes.

** NCF did not meet the 95% threshold for fall 2018 due to a change in bookstore vendors on July 5, 2018. Course materials for 20 courses were adopted using the Barnes & Noble platform on or before June 26); however, the information was not transferred to the Follett system before the posting deadline of July 13, 2018.

¹New College of Florida reported changing the bookstore vendor from Barnes & Noble College to Follett, on July 5, 2018. Course materials for 20 courses were adopted using the Barnes & Noble platform on or before June 26; however, the information was not transferred to the Follett system before the posting deadline of July 13, 2018.

Changes to Adopted Course Materials After the 45-Day Posting Deadline

Institutions reported some instances of faculty changes to adopted course materials after the 45-day posting deadline. Institutions reported that changes to timely textbook and instructional materials adoptions occur for a variety of valid reasons. These reasons include faculty finding a less expensive resource, a change in the instructor, and unavailable stock. For the 2020 Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials report, institutions will be required to report the number of course sections with changes to existing textbooks and instructional materials adoptions after the posting deadline as well as adoptions submitted after the posting deadline.



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