

State University System

Textbook & Instructional Materials Affordability Report

Fall 2021



Summary of State University System of Florida Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Reports Fall 2021

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. Each institution's report is required to address the following 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 textbook 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 2021 institutions' reports.

Textbook and Instructional Materials Selection Process for General Education Courses with High Enrollments

For general education courses identified with high enrollments, the institutions reported that the selection process for textbook and instructional materials for course assignments varies. Course materials are selected by individual faculty members, collective faculty within a department, the department chair, and/or through combined efforts of individual faculty, department committees, and the chair of the department.

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 before or during registration
- ✓ Providing the opt-in and/or the opt-out provision for the purchase of course materials
- ✓ Maintaining textbook loan programs and lending libraries
- ✓ Providing no-cost instructional materials on reserve in the library

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. Additional information on these can be found in the individual reports, but select examples are provided below.

- ✓ The university libraries have implemented an alternative textbook grant program, which has awarded \$43,000 in grants to Florida State University instructors to identify free or low-cost textbooks for forty-one courses. The libraries estimate that instructors who have participated in the program have saved students approximately \$468,339 on course materials since the program's inception. In addition, the university libraries have implemented an eTextbooks Program in which library-licensed materials serve as course adopted textbooks. Instructors and students can search by course code, instructor, or book title to determine if required course materials identified by instructors are available online at no cost through the libraries. Since its implementation, the libraries identified 848 total titles in spring 2021 and 343 in summer 2021 available through the libraries' existing licenses. In these two semesters, the total potential student savings is over \$1.9 million.
- ✓ Florida International University's (FIU) Affordability Counts Initiative lowers the cost of course materials to \$20 or less per credit. In 2019, FIU Online partnered with five universities to create a statewide searchable database of courses that use open educational resources (OER) and low-cost materials for faculty across the state to contribute to and use as a resource in their content curation process. In just one year, faculty at Florida state colleges and universities gained access to a statewide repository of model courses and their low-cost materials. As of May 2021, over 1,261 faculty have participated in the Affordability Counts Initiative, an increase in

817 faculty since last year, and over 1,900 courses have been designated as "affordable courses," an increase by 1,304 courses since last year. Since the program's inception, FIU courses awarded the Affordability Counts medallion have saved students over \$2 million. FIU also hosts the Affordability Counts Initiative for the System. To date, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Central Florida, the University of North Florida, the University of South Florida, and Lake Sumter State College have partnered with FIU on the Affordability Counts Initiative.

- ✓ The University of Central Florida librarians and instructional designers support faculty in locating compilations of free resources in place of textbooks. In many cases, a variety of materials are used to illustrate course concepts. These resources range from specific chapters in OER to resources from websites/digital archives, articles, and/or videos. In the 2020-2021 academic year, the use of free resources and OER saved students \$1,741,739.
- ✓ The University of Florida (UF) has established the Affordable UF Initiative, including multiple components designed to reduce students' textbook and instructional material costs. Affordable UF personnel have continued refining efforts to identify courses where the primary required textbook is either freely available online or available through the libraries' collections under an unlimited license allowing simultaneous student access. These options offer a pathway for students to access instructional materials at no additional cost. By analyzing course syllabi and textbook adoption data, staff identified 368 sections of 15 unique courses impacting approximately 11,886 students over fall 2020-spring 2021. These include courses from the arts and humanities disciplines as well as STEM. The potential savings is over \$1,007,625.
- ✓ The Textbook Affordability Project (TAP) at the University of South Florida is the university's official source for student support on textbook affordability. The TAP website serves as a central access point for all textbook affordability initiatives such as the TAP Toolbox, Textbook Recommendation Service, Ebooks in the Classroom +, TAP Course Reserves, Affordability Counts, and Open Access Textbooks. The University of South Florida reported that the savings to students since TAP's inception in 2010 is over \$31 million.
- ✓ The University of West Florida's Pace Library and Provost's Office Textbook Affordability Program provides one print copy of each textbook required for all undergraduate courses to borrow through the library. During the 2020-2021 academic year, students had access to 3,255 textbooks, which is an increase of 576 textbooks available in 2019-2020. The University of West Florida reported that the program saved students over \$370,000.
- ✓ Eight institutions reported offering the opt-in provision to purchase course materials, which provides electronic textbooks and course materials by the first day of class at a significant discount. Savings across the eight institutions for the 2020-2021 academic year totaled more than \$13 million, up from more than \$8 million in 2019-2020.

- ✓ The 2020 legislative session amended section 1004.085 (4), Florida Statutes, Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability, which expanded the use of innovative pricing techniques to include an opt-in or opt-out provision for students. The opt-in or opt-out provision may be approved only if there is documented evidence that the options reduce the cost of textbooks and instructional materials for students taking a course. Florida State University offered the opt-out provision for various courses during spring and summer 2021 and reported that students saved over \$745,000 with a 90-93% student participation rate. Two institutions are planning to pilot the opt-out provision in the 2021-2022 academic year.

No-Cost Educational Resources

All twelve institutions report utilizing no-cost materials and/or OER. For the 2021 report, 46% of the course sections in both fall and spring reported using course materials with no cost to the students. Table 1 summarizes the number of course sections that did not require or recommend purchasing a textbook(s) or instructional materials and/or utilized OER.

Table 1: Course Sections that Did Not Require or Recommend the Purchase of a Textbook(s) or Instructional Materials and/or Utilized Open Educational Resources for Academic Year 2020-2021

SUS Institution	Fall 2020			Spring 2021		
	Total Course Sections ¹	Section(s) with No-Cost Materials	%	Total Course Sections ¹	Section(s) with No-Cost Materials	%
FAMU	1,900	407	21%	2,417	359	15%
FAU	5,201	2,236	43%	5,120	2,568	50%
FGCU	2,486	730	29%	2,483	725	29%
FIU	7,823	3,756	48%	7,740	3,697	48%
FL POLY	307	73	24%	298	86	29%
FSU	11,663	7,195	62%	12,151	7,943	65%
NCF	99	33	33%	87	32	37%
UCF	12,595	8,058	64%	10,656	6,427	60%
UF	14,618	5,196	36%	16,982	6,213	37%
UNF	3,095	1,002	32%	2,850	996	35%
USF	11,144	3,903	35%	10,484	4,053	39%
UWF	2,409	938	39%	2,376	960	40%
TOTAL	73,340	33,527	46%	73,644	34,059	46%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2021.

¹Total course sections including course exceptions

System-Wide Initiative

The Board of Governors approved the State University System of Florida Action Plan for the Pricing of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials at its August 29, 2019, meeting. This initiative aims to provide students with access to quality and affordable textbooks and instructional materials. The initiative also helps to ensure that students throughout the System will be paying consistent prices for the same materials.

The initiative includes 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 is 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.
- By January 20 of each year, beginning in 2020, publishers provide the list of materials that meet the components of this initiative to faculty for review and consideration.
- Bookstore vendors develop mechanisms for capturing and reporting faculty use of OER and other no-cost resources.
- Institutions have access to data for reporting purposes.

For the 2021 report, 12% of the course materials across the State University System cost the student \$20 or less per credit hour for fall 2020, and 13% of the course materials cost \$20 per credit hour or less for spring 2021. Table 2 summarizes the number of course sections that required or recommended textbook(s) and instructional materials which met the State University System of Florida Action Plan for the Pricing of Textbooks and other Instructional Materials.

Table 2: Course Sections that Required or Recommended Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials for \$20 or less per credit hour for Academic Year 2020-2021

SUS Institution	Fall 2020			Spring 2021		
	Total Course Sections ¹	Section(s) with Course Materials for \$20 or Less per Credit Hour	%	Total Course Sections ¹	Section(s) with Course Materials for Less than \$20 or Less per Credit Hour	%
FAMU	1,900	358	19%	2,417	232	10%
FAU	5,201	594	11%	5,120	659	13%
FGCU	2,486	258	10%	2,483	348	14%
FIU	7,823	2,108	27%	7,740	2,205	29%
FL POLY	307	138	45%	298	105	35%
FSU	11,663	538	5%	12,151	861	7%
NCF	99	30	30%	87	22	25%
UCF	12,595	601	5%	10,656	508	5%
UF	14,618	1,693	12%	16,982	1,462	9%
UNF	3,095	586	19%	2,850	605	21%
USF	11,144	1,546	14%	10,484	1,843	18%
UWF	2,409	568	24%	2,376	579	24%
TOTAL	73,340	9,018	12%	73,644	9,429	13%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2021.

¹Total course sections including course exceptions

All twelve institutions reported that faculty utilized no-cost instructional materials and that faculty selected textbooks and instructional materials costing the student \$20 or less per credit hour throughout the academic year. In total, just under 60% of course sections offered in the fall semester and spring semester utilized no-cost or low-cost course materials.

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 before 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 with the posting of information for required course materials on the institution's 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 2021 report, eight of the 12 institutions met the 95% threshold for the fall 2020 semester, and ten institutions met the threshold for the spring 2021 semester. Table 3 summarizes the percentage of course sections meeting and not meeting the 45-day posting requirement.

Florida Gulf Coast University did not meet the 95% threshold for fall 2020 and spring 2021 and is therefore non-compliant with Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes. Florida Gulf Coast University reported a transition in bookstore vendors in July 2020, which coincides with the posting deadline. The course materials adoption system changed as a result of the change in bookstore vendors. During the transition, the adopted materials did not seamlessly transfer to the new vendor's system. The university also reported that the onset of COVID-19 posed additional unexpected challenges for meeting textbook adoption rates in fall 2020. Timely adoption in spring 2021 increased to 89%, but changes in course materials after the posting deadline reduced the percentage of course sections not meeting the requirement.

The University of Florida was slightly below the 95% threshold for fall 2020 and spring 2021 and is therefore non-compliant with Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes. The University of Florida reported changes made to adopted course materials after the deadline as the primary reason for not meeting the statutory threshold.

The University of North Florida was also slightly below the 95% threshold for fall 2020 and is therefore non-compliant with Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes. The University of North Florida also reported changes made to adopted course materials after the required posting deadline as the primary reason for not meeting the statutory threshold.

The University of West Florida was below the 95% threshold for fall 2020 and is therefore non-compliant with Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes. The University of West Florida cited changes made to adopted course materials after the posting deadline, with many changes for lower-cost materials, as the primary reason for not meeting the statutory threshold. In addition, a calculation error was noted in the initial report submitted to the Board of Governors office. A corrected version of the report will be presented to the University of West Florida Board of Trustees on November 18, 2021.

Table 3: Course Sections Meeting the 45-Day Posting Requirement for Academic Year 2020-2021

SUS Institution	Fall 2020			Spring 2021		
	Total Course Sections ¹	Met	Not Met	Total Course Sections ¹	Met	Not Met
FAMU	1,900	98%	2%	2,417	98%	2%
FAU	5,045	99%	1%	5,039	98%	2%
FGCU	2,203	73%	27%	2,240	89%	11%
FIU	5,188	96%	4%	5,436	95%	5%
FL POLY	288	99%	1%	288	98%	2%
FSU	10,812	98%	2%	11,571	98%	2%
NCF	99	98%	2%	87	100%	0%
UCF	12,032	98%	2%	9,594	98%	2%
UF	14,618	94%	6%	16,301	94%	6%
UNF	2,453	92%	8%	2,386	95%	5%
USF	8,507	97%	3%	8,755	98%	2%
UWF	2,347	80%	20%	2,334	95%	5%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2021.

¹Total course sections excluding course exceptions

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

Institutions must report instances of faculty changes made to adopted course materials after the 45-day posting deadline. Institutions have reported that changes occur for various reasons. Some reasons reported include faculty finding a less expensive resource, a change in the course instructor, faculty errors with inputting the adopted materials in the vendor system, publisher delays, and university bookstore vendor errors. Table 4 summarizes the number and percentage of course sections that changed materials after the deadline.

Florida Gulf Coast University reported that the campus bookstore initiated changes after 45 days to procure alternative options or textbook versions due to the limited availability of some materials. These changes did not have a financial impact on the cost of materials to students.

The University of Florida reported changes made to adopted course materials after the deadline were necessary to address COVID-19 challenges, including accommodating changing course modalities and student needs.

The University of North Florida reported changes made to adopted course materials for the fall semester resulted from course sections moving from face-to-face delivery to online delivery due to COVID-19. As a result, faculty replaced printed materials with digital materials, and some materials were changed due to limited availability. Some of the changes lowered the costs to students.

The University of West Florida reported that 52% of the changes made after the posting deadline for fall 2020 resulted in reduced costs for students, and 11% of the changes had no financial impact on students. However, some changes (37%) resulted in increased costs to students.

Table 4: Course Sections Changing Materials to Timely Adoptions after the 45-Day Posting Requirement for Academic Year 2020-2021

SUS Institution	Fall 2020			Spring 2021		
	Total Course Sections with Timely Adoptions ¹	# Course Sections that Changed Materials after the Deadline	% Course Sections that Changed Materials after the Deadline	Total Course Sections with Timely Adoptions ¹	# Course Sections that Changed Materials after the Deadline	% Course Sections that Changed Materials after the Deadline
FAMU	1,868	0	0%	2,379	0	0%
FAU	4,994	0	0%	4,947	0	0%
FGCU	1,598	263	16%	1,985	222	11%
FIU	4,964	95	2%	5,187	99	2%
FL POLY	284	4	1%	281	7	2%
FSU	10,563	47	<1%	11,294	48	<1%
NCF	97	0	0%	87	0	0%
UCF	11,751	270	2%	9,376	91	1%
UF	13,755	696	5%	15,386	517	3%
UNF	2,247	44	2%	2,259	19	1%
USF	8,282	97	1%	8,606	78	1%
UWF	1,880	444	24%	2,222	112	5%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution September 2021.

¹Total course sections excluding course exceptions



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