

**State University  
System  
Textbook &  
Instructional  
Materials  
Affordability  
Report**

Fall 2021-Spring 2022



# **Summary of State University System of Florida Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Reports Fall 2021-Spring 2022**

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 with high enrollments.
- Specific initiatives of each institution designed to reduce the costs of textbooks and instructional materials.
- Institution policies implemented for posting 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 summarizes the fall 2021 and spring 2022 institution reports.

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

For general education courses with high enrollments, the institutions reported that the selection process for textbooks 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 department chair.

## **Specific Initiatives Designed to Reduce Costs**

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

### **Faculty-Focused Initiatives**

- ✓ Improving the course materials adoption process to include options and pricing information
- ✓ 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 initiatives related to textbook affordability. Select examples are provided below. Additional information can be found in the individual reports.

- ✓ Florida State University (FSU) libraries implemented an eTextbooks Program in which library-licensed materials are 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 FSU libraries. Since its implementation, the FSU libraries have identified 2,192 available eTextbooks in 2021 and 2,839 available eTextbooks in 2022 (a 30% increase). The estimated savings for FSU students have exceeded \$5 million.
- ✓ Florida International University (FIU) partnered with the university bookstore, Barnes & Noble, to pilot the Panther Book Pack Program. This inclusive access program allows students to rent required textbooks and instructional materials in undergraduate courses at a flat rate of \$20 per credit hour. Participating students have access to course materials on or before the first day of class. For the 2021-2022 Academic Year, 40,800 students chose to participate in the program. The Panther Book Pack's combined savings to the students who participated amounted to over \$6 million. To date, no other state university system institution and university of FIU's size has implemented this innovative program with Barnes & Noble in the United States. The Panther Book Pack program will be continued based on its pilot-year success.

- ✓ The University of Central Florida (UCF) librarians and instructional designers support faculty in locating compilations of free resources in place of textbooks. These resources range from specific chapters in open educational resources (OER) to resources from websites/digital archives, articles, and/or videos. In the 2021-2022 Academic Year, using free resources and OER saved students \$1,596,187.
- ✓ The University of Florida's (UF) Affordable UF Initiative includes multiple components designed to reduce students' textbook and instructional material costs. One component created in spring 2021 is the Affordable Access for Student Success: An OER Learning Community. Participants received a \$1,000 stipend to aid in the development of an initial prototype for an OER and a long-term project plan. The second cohort of this learning community will begin in spring 2023.

The UF's George A. Smathers Libraries also directs substantial resources toward supporting affordability initiatives to significantly reduce students' out-of-pocket course material costs. In 2021-2022, the libraries undertook several strategies to respond to students' and instructors' needs, including the following.

- Expanded access to course materials, such as print textbooks, DVDs, e-textbooks, and streaming videos, through the Course Reserves on Demand program, which in 2021-2022 added 752 items specifically requested by instructors;
  - Provided support for diverse open-access monograph initiatives providing access to over 3,942 ebooks that would otherwise have required purchasing; and
  - Invested in multidisciplinary streaming video collections to meet the growing need for streaming media in coursework. These collections provide over 80,000 educational and popular streaming videos that students can access remotely anytime.
- ✓ The University of South Florida's Textbook Affordability Project (TAP) 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 \$35 million, an increase of \$4 million from last year.
- ✓ The University of West Florida's (UWF) Pace Library and Provost's Office Textbook Affordability Program provides one print copy of each textbook required for all undergraduate courses through the library. During the 2021-2022 Academic Year, students had access to 3,411 textbooks, an increase of 156 available in 2020-2021. UWF reported that the program saved students over \$450,000.
- ✓ Four institutions reported offering the opt-in provision to purchase course materials, which provides course materials by the first day of class at a significant discount.<sup>1</sup> The opt-in provision requires students to actively select this option to obtain the

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<sup>1</sup> The four institutions offering the opt-in provision are Florida Atlantic University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, and University of South Florida.

course materials through the program. Savings across the four institutions for the 2021-2022 Academic Year totaled more than \$16.8 million.

- ✓ Four institutions have implemented the opt-out provision to purchase course materials due to amendments to section 1004.085 (4), Florida Statutes, Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability, during the 2020 Legislative Session.<sup>2</sup> The opt-out provision also provides course materials at a significant discount by the first day of class. Students enrolled in a participating course are automatically enrolled in the program, and course materials are charged directly to the student's university account. Students must opt out to cancel participation in the program. Savings across three institutions for the 2021-2022 Academic Year totaled more than \$16.8 million. One institution participating in the program reported that the opt-out provision saved students 27% on the cost of course materials compared to traditional course materials during spring and summer 2022 but did not provide the savings in dollar amount. One institution reported plans to implement the opt-out provision in fall 2022.

### **No-Cost Educational Resources**

All twelve institutions report utilizing no-cost materials and/or open educational resources (OER). For fall 2021, 45% of course sections offered across the State University System reported using course materials at no cost to the students. For spring 2022, 46% of course sections reported using course materials at 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.

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<sup>2</sup> The four institutions offering the opt-out provision are Florida International University, Florida State University, University of North Florida, and University of West Florida.

**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 2021-2022**

SUS Institution	Fall 2021			Spring 2022		
	Total Course Sections <sup>1</sup>	Section(s) with No-Cost Materials	%	Total Course Sections <sup>1</sup>	Section(s) with No-Cost Materials	%
FAMU	3,023	1,016	34%	2,721	939	35%
FAU	5,273	2,487	47%	4,927	2,409	49%
FGCU	2,497	789	32%	2,398	803	33%
FIU	7,603	3,462	46%	7,414	3,523	48%
FL POLY	353	133	38%	314	103	33%
FSU	11,979	7,830	65%	12,211	8,370	69%
NCF	211	69	33%	188	56	30%
UCF	13,154	8,622	66%	10,765	6,630	62%
UF	13,845	5,414	39%	13,261	5,401	41%
UNF	3,006	1,018	34%	2,924	1,066	36%
USF	10,090	1,375	14%	9,729	1,404	14%
UWF	2,529	813	32%	2,471	926	37%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,563</b>	<b>33,028</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>69,323</b>	<b>31,630</b>	<b>46%</b>

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2022.

<sup>1</sup>Total 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 access to affordable, high-quality 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 is 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 to print digital materials on demand.
- Accessibility for students with disabilities is available.

- Since 2020, publishers have provided lists of materials that meet the components of this initiative to faculty for review and consideration by January 2020 each year.
- 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 2021-2022 report, 14% of the course materials across the State University System cost the student \$20 or less per credit hour for both the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters. 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 2021-2022**

SUS Institution	Fall 2021			Spring 2022		
	Total Course Sections <sup>1</sup>	Section(s) with Course Materials for \$20 or Less per Credit Hour	%	Total Course Sections <sup>1</sup>	Section(s) with Course Materials for Less than \$20 or Less per Credit Hour	%
FAMU	3,023	337	11%	2,721	379	14%
FAU	5,273	551	10%	4,927	554	11%
FGCU	2,497	363	15%	2,398	355	15%
FIU	7,603	1,986	26%	7,414	1,934	26%
FL POLY	353	44	12%	314	41	13%
FSU	11,979	764	6%	12,211	656	5%
NCF	211	66	31%	188	62	33%
UCF	13,154	584	4%	10,765	542	5%
UF	13,845	2,691	19%	13,261	2,728	21%
UNF	3,006	570	19%	2,924	576	20%
USF	10,090	1,608	16%	9,729	1,536	16%
UWF	2,529	593	23%	2,471	481	19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,563</b>	<b>10,157</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>69,323</b>	<b>9,844</b>	<b>14%</b>

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2022.

<sup>1</sup>Total course sections, including course exceptions

All twelve institutions reported that faculty utilized no-cost instructional materials and selected textbooks and instructional materials costing the student \$20 or less per credit

hour throughout the academic year. In total, 60% of course sections offered in the fall and spring semesters 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 before 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 each term's first day of class. For the 2021-2022 report, ten of the 12 institutions met the 95% threshold for the fall 2021 semester, and ten institutions met the threshold for the spring 2022 semester. Table 3 summarizes the percentage of course sections meeting and not meeting the 45-day posting requirement.

Three universities did not meet the 95% threshold for either fall 2021 or spring 2022 and are not in compliance with section 1004.085, Florida Statutes. Florida International University (FIU) was slightly below the 95% threshold for fall 2021 and spring 2022. The university reported changes to course materials for 2% of course sections after the deadline for fall 2021 and spring 2022, which impacted compliance.

The University of North Florida was below the 95% threshold for fall 2021. The university reported that 10% of the sections offered did not meet the requirement. The university met the statutory threshold for spring 2022.

The University of West Florida was below the 95% threshold for spring 2022. The university reported changes were made to course materials for 9% of course sections after the deadline. The university met the statutory threshold for fall 2021.



**Table 3: Course Sections Meeting the 45-Day Posting Requirement for Academic Year 2021-2022**

SUS Institution	Fall 2021			Spring 2022		
	Total Course Sections <sup>1</sup>	Met	Not Met	Total Course Sections <sup>1</sup>	Met	Not Met
<b>FAMU</b>	2,753	96%	4%	2,506	96%	4%
<b>FAU</b>	4,502	99%	1%	4,152	98%	2%
<b>FGCU</b>	2,280	95%	5%	2,255	99%	1%
<b>FIU</b>	5,127	93%	7%	5,088	94%	6%
<b>FL POLY</b>	326	99%	1%	291	100%	0%
<b>FSU</b>	11,214	96%	4%	11,495	97%	3%
<b>NCF</b>	211	98%	2%	188	96%	4%
<b>UCF</b>	12,548	99%	1%	9,745	97%	3%
<b>UF</b>	13,845	96%	4%	13,261	96%	4%
<b>UNF</b>	2,453	90%	10%	2,642	95%	5%
<b>USF</b>	9,514	97%	3%	9,281	97%	3%
<b>UWF</b>	2,457	95%	5%	2,414	91%	9%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2022.

<sup>1</sup>Total 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 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.

**Table 4: Course Sections Changing Materials to Timely Adoptions after the 45-Day Posting Requirement for Academic Year 2021-2022**

SUS Institution	Fall 2021			Spring 2022		
	Total Course Sections with Timely Adoptions <sup>1</sup>	# Course Sections that Changed Materials after the Deadline	% Course Sections that Changed Materials after the Deadline	Total Course Sections with Timely Adoptions <sup>1</sup>	# Course Sections that Changed Materials after the Deadline	% Course Sections that Changed Materials after the Deadline
<b>FAMU</b>	2,642	0	0%	2,410	0	0%
<b>FAU</b>	4,469	0	0%	4,069	0	0%
<b>FGCU</b>	2,157	46	2%	2,237	18	1%
<b>FIU</b>	4,748	124	2%	4,781	92	2%
<b>FL POLY</b>	323	3	<1%	291	0	0%
<b>FSU</b>	10,798	98	1%	11,157	222	2%
<b>NCF</b>	206	1	<1%	181	0	0%
<b>UCF</b>	12,363	154	1%	9,499	185	2%
<b>UF</b>	13,333	344	2%	12,719	155	1%
<b>UNF</b>	2,205	61	2%	2,510	79	3%
<b>USF</b>	9,238	99	1%	9,007	95	1%
<b>UWF</b>	2,340	117	5%	2,202	212	9%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution September 2022.

<sup>1</sup>Total course sections, excluding course exceptions



# STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA





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