

State University System Textbook & Instructional Materials Affordability Report

Fall 2022-Spring 2023



Summary of State University System of Florida Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Reports Fall 2022-Spring 2023

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 to the Chancellor of the State University System. Each institution's report is required to address the following 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 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.

Senate Bill 7044 was signed into law on April 19, 2022, and amended section 1004.085, Florida Statutes. The new law requires the universities to maintain a database of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials that is searchable by specified components and downloadable. The database must also include course syllabi for general education core course options. University compliance with the new requirements is included in this report.

The following is a summary of the fall 2022 and spring 2023 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 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 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
- ✓ 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 Programs

All institutions also have specific institutional initiatives related to textbook affordability. Additional information can be found in the individual reports; select examples are provided below.

- ✓ Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), together with the university bookstore, Barnes and Noble College, launched its new program, the Rattler Pack, in fall 2022. As part of the Rattler Pack, all undergraduate students receive course materials for \$24 per credit hour. Students are automatically enrolled in the program upon registering for classes and receive materials on or before the first day of classes. Students may opt out of participating in the program. In the program's first year, students saved over \$2.5 million through Rattler Pack.
- ✓ Florida International University (FIU) launched its program, Panther Book Pack, in 2021 with the university bookstore, Barnes and Noble College. 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 2022-2023 Academic Year (AY), over 49,000 students chose to participate in the program. The Panther Book Pack's combined savings to the participating students amounted to over \$6 million. The Panther Book Pack program saved students over \$12 million in its first two years.

- ✓ The University of Central Florida (UCF) librarians partnered with the university bookstore, Barnes and Noble College, to offer the ability for faculty to easily customize course materials in their preferred format by building a course pack with XanEdu. Faculty can combine content from journal and scholarly articles, book chapters, business cases, multimedia, and original or self-authored material. With a custom course pack, faculty select only content covered in the syllabus, and students pay only for what they need.
- ✓ The University of Florida's (UF) George A. Smathers Libraries directs substantial resources toward supporting affordability initiatives to significantly reduce students' out-of-pocket course material costs. In the 2022-2023 AY, the Smathers Libraries undertook several strategies to respond to students' and instructors' needs, including the following.
 - Expanded course materials (print textbooks, DVDs, e-textbooks, and streaming videos) access through the Course Reserves on Demand program, which, in 2022-2023, added 853 items specifically requested by instructors;
 - Expanded the Taylor and Francis evidence-based acquisition collection, which provides access to over 150,000 ebooks spanning all disciplines that would otherwise have required purchasing; and
 - Invested in the PBS Video Collection, adding 1,673 streaming videos.
- ✓ The University of South Florida's (USF) 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 \$3.3 million from last year.
- ✓ Five institutions reported offering the opt-in provision¹, and five institutions reported offering the opt-out provision² to purchase course materials. Both initiatives provide course materials at a significant discount, with students having course materials on or before the first day of classes. Total savings across the ten institutions for the 2022-2023 AY totaled more than \$31 million.

¹ The five institutions offering the opt-in provision are Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, and University of South Florida.

² The five institutions offering the opt-out provision are Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida International University, Florida State University, University of North Florida, and University of West Florida.

No-Cost Educational Resources

All twelve institutions report utilizing no-cost materials and/or open educational resources (OER). For fall 2022, 53% of course sections offered across the State University System reported using course materials at no cost to the students. For spring 2023, 49% 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.

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 2022-2023

SUS Institution	Fall 2022			Spring 2023		
	Total Course Sections ¹	Section(s) with No-Cost Materials	%	Total Course Sections ¹	Section(s) with No-Cost Materials	%
FAMU	3,334	996	30%	3,270	1,072	33%
FAU	5,429	2,518	46%	5,178	2,414	47%
FGCU	2,696	789	29%	2,579	612	24%
FIU	7,612	3,570	47%	7,443	3,635	49%
FL POLY	320	124	39%	317	114	36%
FSU	12,323	8,268	67%	12,162	8,522	70%
NCF	209	86	41%	203	92	45%
UCF	12,966	9,158	71%	10,514	7,059	67%
UF	15,185	6,780	45%	14,999	5,677	38%
UNF	3,093	1,321	43%	2,888	1,317	46%
USF	10,027	5,084	51%	9,826	3,504	36%
UWF	2,533	1,127	44%	2,540	1,173	46%
TOTAL	75,727	39,821	53%	71,919	35,191	49%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2023.

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 ensure that students throughout the System will pay 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 will 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 2022-2023 report, 18% of the course materials across the State University System cost the student \$20 or less per credit hour for both fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters. Compared to the prior year, this is a four percent point increase in course sections that required or recommended textbook and instructional materials for \$20 or less per credit hour. Table 2 summarizes the number of course sections that required or recommended textbook(s) and instructional materials that 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 2022-2023

SUS Institution	Fall 2022			Spring 2023		
	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	3,334	188	6%	3,270	92	3%
FAU	5,429	646	12%	5,178	586	11%
FGCU	2,696	466	17%	2,579	402	16%
FIU	7,612	5,350	70%	7,443	5,574	75%
FL POLY	320	38	12%	317	37	12%
FSU	12,323	773	6%	12,162	731	6%
NCF	209	65	31%	203	53	26%
UCF	12,966	604	5%	10,514	533	5%
UF	15,185	2,654	17%	14,999	2,545	17%
UNF	3,093	578	19%	2,888	487	17%
USF	10,027	181	2%	9,826	109	1%
UWF	2,533	1,712	68%	2,540	1,741	69%
TOTAL	75,727	13,255	18%	71,919	12,890	18%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2023.

¹Total 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, 69% 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, including 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

Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes, 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 2022-2023 report, all 12 of the 12 institutions met the 95% threshold for the fall 2022 semester and the spring 2023 semester. Table 3 summarizes the percentage of course sections meeting and not meeting the 45-day posting requirement.

Table 3: Course Sections Meeting the 45-Day Posting Requirement for Academic Year 2022-2023

SUS Institution	Fall 2021			Spring 2022		
	Total Course Sections ¹	Met	Not Met	Total Course Sections ¹	Met	Not Met
FAMU	2,908	95%	5%	2,877	96%	4%
FAU	4,536	99%	1%	4,280	97%	3%
FGCU	2,342	100%	0%	2,296	96%	4%
FIU	5,239	95%	5%	5,093	97%	3%
FL POLY	269	100%	0%	306	100%	0%
FSU	11,491	98%	2%	11,465	97%	3%
NCF	206	99%	1%	203	99%	1%
UCF	12,788	98%	2%	9,811	98%	2%
UF	14,143	97%	3%	13,381	98%	2%
UNF	3,164	95%	5%	2,951	97%	3%
USF	9,217	96%	4%	9,131	96%	4%
UWF	2,432	99%	1%	2,402	99%	1%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2023.

¹Total course sections, excluding course exceptions

Published List of Textbooks and Instructional Materials and Course Syllabi

Senate Bill 7044 from the 2022 Legislative Session was signed into law on April 19, 2022. This legislation amended section 1004.085, Florida Statutes, requiring the

universities to maintain a database of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials that is searchable by specified components and downloadable. The database must also include course syllabi for general education core course options. The database must contain the required information for at least five academic years.

The law specifically requires the database for required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials to include the following.

- The International Standard Book Number (ISBN) or other identifying information, which must include, at a minimum, all of the following: the title, all authors listed, publishers, edition number, copyright date, published date, and other relevant information necessary to identify the specific textbooks or instructional materials required and recommended for each course.
- Be searchable by the course subject, the course number, the course title, the name of the instructor of the course, the title of each assigned textbook or instructional material, and each author of an assigned textbook or instructional material.
- Be easily downloadable by current and prospective students.
- Include course syllabi with information on the course curriculum, the goals, objectives, and student expectations, and assessment of student performance for general education core courses.

All 12 institutions reported on the implementation of the new law, and Board staff verified compliance. Table 4 includes the hyperlinks to the published list of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials and also includes the hyperlinks to the course syllabi for general education core courses. Starting with postings for the fall 2022 term, the above information must remain posted in a public, searchable database for at least five academic years.

Table 4: Hyperlinks to Required & Recommended Textbooks & Instructional Materials & Syllabi for General Education Core Courses

SUS Institutions	Required & Recommended Textbooks & Instructional Materials	Course Syllabi for General Education Core Courses
FAMU	FAMU Course Materials	FAMU Syllabi
FAU	FAU Course Materials	FAU Syllabi
FGCU	FGCU Course Materials	FGCU Syllabi
FIU	FIU Course Materials	FIU Syllabi
FL POLY	FL POLY Course Materials	FL POLY Syllabi
FSU	FSU Course Materials	FSU Syllabi
NCF	NCF Course Materials	NCF Syllabi
UCF	UCF Course Materials	UCF Syllabi
UF	UF Course Materials	UF Syllabi
UNF	UNF Course Materials	UNF Syllabi
USF	USF Course Materials	USF Syllabi
UWF	UWF Course Materials	UWF Syllabi

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2023.



STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA





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