

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

Academic Year

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024



**STATE UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**

Summary of State University System of Florida Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report for Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

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
- A database of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials that is searchable by specified components and downloadable, which includes course syllabi for general education core course options

The following is a summary of the fall 2023 and spring 2024 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 Cost

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 International University's Panther Book Pack 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. During the 2023-2024 Academic Year, there was continued growth, with over \$6 million generated in savings for more than 51,000 students who participated.
- ✓ Florida State University's (FSU) University Libraries 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 number of available

eTextbooks has expanded. In 2021, the Libraries identified 2,192 available eTextbooks, and in 2023, 3,866 eTextbooks available. The Libraries' staff has continued outreach to instructors to advocate for library-licensed course materials adoption. In calculating the total potential savings for FSU students, the impact has exceeded \$5 million.

- ✓ The University of West Florida (UWF) Libraries continue to offer access to required undergraduate print textbooks with dedicated funding provided by the Provost's Office. Students have access to almost 4,000 textbooks that were borrowed nearly 6,000 times during the 2023-2024 Academic Year. Using the average acquisition cost per textbook from the 2024 Fiscal Year of \$75.91, the transaction value of the UWF textbook affordability program was over \$400,000.
- ✓ Six institutions¹ reported offering the opt-in provision, and five institutions² reported offering the opt-out provision 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 2023-2024 Academic Year totaled more than \$25 million.

No-Cost Educational Resources

All twelve institutions reported utilizing no-cost materials and/or open educational resources (OER). For fall 2023, 53% of course sections offered across the State University System reported using course materials at no cost to the students. For spring 2024, 48% 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.

¹The six institutions offering the opt-in provision are Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida State 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.

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 (OER) for Academic Year 2023-2024

SUS Institution	Fall 2023			Spring 2024		
	Total Course Sections ¹	Section(s) with No-Cost Materials /OER	%	Total Course Sections ¹	Section(s) with No-Cost Materials/OER	%
FAMU	3,832	1148	30%	3,945	1,192	30%
FAU	5,423	2,667	49%	5,341	2,877	54%
FGCU	2,634	860	33%	2,563	862	34%
FIU	7,429	3,555	48%	7,204	3,453	48%
FL POLY	339	143	42%	314	108	34%
FSU	12,549	8,611	69%	12,325	8,736	71%
NCF	209	52	25%	208	63	30%
UCF	13,442	9,622	72%	10,874	7,342	68%
UF	16,268	7,414	46%	15,739	4,454	28%
UNF	2,937	1,095	37%	2,892	1,150	40%
USF	7,934	3,708	47%	8,314	3,306	40%
UWF	2,457	999	41%	2,436	1,160	48%
TOTAL	75,453	39,874	53%	72,155	34,703	48%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2024.

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 2023-2024 report, 21% of the course materials across the System cost the student \$20 or less per credit hour for both the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters. The 21% represents a three percent point increase in course sections that required or recommended textbook and instructional materials for \$20 or less per credit hour from the prior year. During the 2023-24 Academic Year more sections were available to students with materials costing \$20 or less per credit hour than the prior year. 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 2023-2024

SUS Institution	Fall 2023			Spring 2024		
	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	3,832	563	15%	3,945	574	15%
FAU	5,423	122	2%	5,341	120	2%
FGCU	2,634	456	17%	2,563	454	18%
FIU	7,429	4,205	57%	7,204	4,059	57%
FL POLY	339	67	20%	314	54	17%
FSU	12,549	791	6%	12,325	718	6%
NCF	209	75	36%	208	89	43%
UCF	13,442	633	5%	10,874	555	5%
UF	16,268	2,738	17%	15,739	2,676	17%
UNF	2,937	571	19%	2,892	484	17%
USF	7,934	3856	49%	8,314	3,393	41%
UWF	2,457	1,781	72%	2,436	1,884	77%
TOTAL	75,453	15,858	21%	72,155	15,060	21%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2024.

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, 71% of course sections across the System 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 2023-2024 report, all 12 of the institutions reported meeting the 95% threshold for the fall 2023 semester and the spring 2024 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 2023-2024

SUS Institution	Fall 2023			Spring 2024		
	Total Course Sections ¹	Met	Not Met	Total Course Sections ¹	Met	Not Met
FAMU	3,326	95%	5%	3,578	97%	3%
FAU	4,549	97%	3%	4,438	97%	3%
FGCU	2,441	100%	0%	2,296	96%	4%
FIU	5,573	98%	2%	5,419	98%	2%
FL POLY	304	100%	0%	296	100%	0%
FSU	11,786	98%	2%	11,623	96%	4%
NCF	194	96%	3%	203	97%	3%
UCF	12,632	98%	2%	9,783	97%	3%
UF	14,112	95%	5%	13,749	95%	5%
UNF	2,964	95%	5%	2,850	97%	3%
USF	7,392	95%	5%	8,009	96%	4%
UWF	2,457	100%	0%	2,436	100%	0%

Source: Annual Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report provided by each SUS institution, September 2024.

¹Total course sections, excluding course exceptions

Published List of Textbooks and Instructional Materials and Course Syllabi

Section 1004.085, Florida Statutes, 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. 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 course instructor's name, 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, student expectations, and assessment of student performance for general education core courses

Table 4 includes the hyperlinks to the published list of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials for each institution and includes the hyperlinks to the course syllabi for general education core courses. The above information must remain posted in a public, searchable database for at least five academic years.

Table 4: Hyperlinks to Required and 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 2024.



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