

FIU- 1103 Textbook Affordability.

The Board of Trustees of Florida International University establishes the following procedures for minimizing the cost of textbooks to students while maintaining the quality of their educational experience and continuing to ensure academic freedom.

- (1) Selection of textbooks and instructional materials through cost-benefit analyses that enable students to obtain the highest-quality product at the lowest available price, by:
 - (a) Making available digital textbooks in bulk; expanding the use of open-access textbooks and instructional materials; providing rental options for textbooks and instructional materials; increasing the availability and use of affordable digital textbooks and learning objects; developing mechanisms to assist in buying, renting, selling, and sharing textbooks and instructional materials; increasing the length of time that textbooks and instructional materials remain in use; and other proactive measures.
 - (b) Distinguishing the required materials from those which are recommended. By identifying any materials as required, instructors certify that the students need these materials for the course. By identifying any bundled materials as required, instructors certify that students must obtain all the items in the bundle. When it is possible to obtain the bundled materials separately, instructors should specify only those materials which the students need for the course as required.
 - (c) Determining which edition(s) to require for the course, whereby the instructor's adoption shall constitute certification that a newer edition differs significantly and substantively from the earlier versions to warrant the change. When instructors do not believe this to be the case and when it will not impede the instruction of the course, faculty members may indicate on the adoption that students may obtain either the new or older editions as this will ensure affordability options to the students.
- (2) Textbooks and other instructional materials shall be adopted by the course instructor or his/her designee via the University Bookstore's adoption online platform no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the first day of classes.
 - (a) The 45-days deadline is established to allow sufficient time for the University Bookstore to confirm availability of the requested materials, ensure availability of sufficient used instructional materials, source lower cost options, explore alternatives with faculty, coordinate its book-buy-back activities at the end of the semester with the book orders for the ensuing semester to maximize the availability of used textbooks and instructional materials. A course or section added after this 45-day deadline is exempt from this requirement.
 - (b) Adoptions for required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials for the upcoming term will be posted publicly by course section on the University's website and linked to the student registration system as soon as they are received. This posted information will include: ISBN, author(s) or editor(s), title, publisher, edition number, copyright and publication dates, or other relevant information necessary to clearly identify the specific materials students must obtain for the course.
- (3) The University shall develop innovative and effective pricing and payment options for textbooks and instructional materials.

- (a) The University shall conduct consultations with providers including the University Bookstore and publishers to implement price match and other options.
 - (b) Determination of the students' ability to pay for instructional materials will be made through the standard student financial aid eligibility assessment. When financial aid applications are made within stated deadlines students with confirmed financial aid eligibility for textbooks will be notified of this prior to the beginning of each semester. They may elect to have their Panther Accounts credited with the approved funding to make textbook and instructional materials purchases from the University Bookstore directly.
 - (c) Making available book advances three (3) weeks before the start of classes each Fall/Spring/Summer term, including for students receiving early loan disbursements as not all students take their loans.
- (4) The University shall consult with dual enrollment partner schools to identify best practices that reduce the cost of dual enrollment course textbooks and instructional materials.
- (5) The Office of the Provost shall examine, each semester, the cost of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials for general education and high enrollment courses by:
- (a) Identifying any wide variance, as established by the Board of Governors, in the cost among different sections of the same course and submission of a list of courses that have a wide variance in costs among sections to the appropriate academic department chair for review.
 - (b) Identification of the percentage of textbooks and instructional materials that remain in use for more than one term, if such analysis in the textbook adoption platform can be provided.
- (6) No employee of Florida International University may demand or receive any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, service, or anything of value, present or promised, in exchange for requiring students to purchase specific items. However, an employee may receive, subject to the requirements of the Florida Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees and the outside activity and conflict of interest requirements set forth in University regulations and collective bargaining agreements:
- (a) Sample copies, instructor copies, or instructional materials. These materials may not be sold for any type of compensation if they are specifically marked as free samples not for resale.
 - (b) Royalties or other compensation from sales of textbooks that include the instructor's own writing or work (which requires the filing and approval of the "Outside Activity and Conflict of Interest" form).
 - (c) Honoraria for academic peer review of course materials.
 - (d) Fees associated with activities such as reviewing, critiquing, or preparing support materials for textbooks.
 - (e) Training in the use of course materials and learning technologies.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., FBOG Regulation 8.003. History-New 3-25-10, Amended 6-14-17.