

MAKING TEXTBOOKS AFFORDABLE INITIATIVE

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi faculty and staff understand the increasing cost of textbooks adds to the financial pressures of students attending college. As a result, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is making intentional efforts to utilize best practices in textbook adoption.

1. All departments at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall develop and implement schedules for the early adoption of textbooks (requiring purchase) to allow the bookstore time to secure used textbooks and students time to order from competitively priced sources.
2. The bookstore shall provide faculty who are placing book orders with current information about the retail price of selected course materials.
3. To enhance the viability of used textbooks as an option for lowering the costs of textbooks to students, to the extent feasible and appropriate, faculty teaching the same course for multiple semesters are encouraged to use the same textbooks and course materials for multiple semesters.
4. Whenever appropriate within the goals of the course, faculty and instructional staff are encouraged to order new editions of textbooks only if older editions are not of comparable educational content or are no longer available through normal distribution channels. In such cases, faculty members are encouraged to list information pertinent to previous editions which are acceptable for use.
5. When available, and economically advantageous to students, faculty and instructional staff shall request unbundled versions of textbook and course materials.
6. To the extent possible, if bundled materials are assigned, the bookstore shall make available both bundled and unbundled versions of the materials for purchase. In situations where bundled materials are assigned, the bookstore should clarify whether students can purchase either the bundled package or all required portions of the bundle individually.
7. When appropriate, available for purchase, and economically advantageous for students, faculty and instructional staff shall encourage students to purchase electronic versions or other alternative formats of textbooks.
8. Departments are encouraged, where appropriate, to collectively adopt the same or common textbook(s) for courses with multiple sections.
9. Faculty and departments will balance considerations of immediate costs savings to students with custom books and loose-leaf material with the inability of students to re-sell those materials at the end of the semester.
10. Where possible and appropriate, faculty and departments will consider full-year adoption of a textbook.
11. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall continue to look for creative ways to lessen the financial hardship of college textbook purchases, such as, targeted scholarship and financial aid funds, expansion of economically viable textbook rental programs for selected courses, placing selected course materials on reserve in the campus library, and using information in the public domain.