



POLICY & PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

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DIVISIONS: Academic Affairs, Campus Services and Facilities

TITLE: Textbook Adoption Policy

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REVISED:

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I. Purpose and Scope

This policy establishes the procedures through which instructors of WKU courses (1) identify the textbook(s) to be used in future course offerings and (2) inform the WKU Store accordingly.

The policy provides for notification on such a schedule that the WKU Store can make responsible business decisions as to textbook ordering and used text buyback from students, and it provides an optional "rollover" provision for textbook assignment.

II. Policy

1. Academic freedom ensures that instructors of courses have the right to select, in accordance with any departmental policies that may exist, appropriate texts for the courses that they are assigned to teach.
2. Section 133(d) of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (H.R. 4137) of 2008 requires that "to the maximum extent practicable, each institution of higher education receiving Federal financial assistance shall disclose, ..., in a manner of the institution's choosing, the International Standard Book Number [ISBN] and retail price information of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials for each course listed in the institution's course schedule used for preregistration and registration purposes." Section 133(e) of the HEOA further requires that the institution make available such information "to a college bookstore that is operated by, or in a contractual relationship or otherwise affiliated with, the institution, as soon as is practicable upon the request of such college bookstore."

3. In order to provide the WKU Store with timely notification of the selected texts, instructors of record agree to provide the WKU Store with the title(s) (and, if appropriate, ISBN numbers) of selected texts by
 - a. April 1, for texts to be used in the Fall semester immediately following;
 - b. November 1, for texts to be used in the Spring semester immediately following.
4. A “No texts yet requested by instructor” response is acceptable.
5. Faculty will have the opportunity to indicate that the textbook(s) to be used for a given course will automatically rollover to the next semester in which the instructor teaches the same course. The WKU Store will automatically roll over such textbooks until a different textbook is specified by the instructor. Subsequent textbooks may be adopted with or without the automatic rollover feature specified.
6. On April 2 of the Spring semester and November 2 of the Fall semester, the WKU Store will distribute to each department head a list of courses under the aegis of that department for which a textbook has not yet been assigned. Department heads will assign textbooks for the courses on their respective departmental lists after consultation with the faculty members concerned. A “No texts yet requested by instructor” response is acceptable if instructors have not yet determined the text or if an instructor is not yet assigned to the course. Department heads will ensure that textbook information is provided to the WKU Store by April 15 for Fall semester courses and November 15 for Spring semester courses.
7. The WKU Store will, by default, assign the most recent edition of a text. Instructors may explicitly use, or retain, a previous edition number by informing the WKU Store accordingly by the dates specified in II.3.
8. Textbook adoption information provided to the WKU Store by the dates shown above will be available on the WKU Store website by May 10 of the spring semester and by December 10 of the fall semester.
9. The WKU store will agree to make books available to students by the first day of classes to the greatest extent practicable.

III. Procedure

1. By the dates specified in II.3, instructors should notify the WKU Store of the intended texts and, if appropriate, ISBN numbers for courses to be taught in the pertinent semester.
2. Department heads should encourage compliance with this policy through appropriate notification to instructors.
3. This policy does not specify notification dates for courses taught during the summer and winter terms. However, instructors are encouraged to provide the WKU Store in a timely manner of selected textbooks for courses taught during these terms

IV. Reason for Policy

1. This policy improves the communication process associated with textbook adoption and makes course materials available to faculty and students when they need, want and expect them.
2. This policy benefits faculty and students by creating an environment that allows cost-effective selling and repurchase of textbooks, benefiting both students and WKU.
3. This policy complies with the Higher Education Opportunity Act requirements to make textbook information available to students on a timely basis, thus allowing students to be more aware of the full costs of attending an institution of higher education.
4. This policy provides students full access to textbook information during the registration process, enabling them to shop for their textbooks at the venue of their choosing.