



TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY AT CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Textbook costs impact students at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) and at other colleges and universities across the country. During the spring 2018 semester, the Administration and Finance Department worked very closely with student leadership across all four campuses to discuss the challenges many students face because of high textbook costs and to improve textbook affordability by selecting textbooks for the College's bookstores and exploring new textbook affordability initiatives.

From those discussions, the College-wide Textbook Affordability Committee, consisting of Tri-C students, administrators and faculty, was created. The committee has worked together to improve the following areas:

TEXTBOOK SELECTION PROCESS

Goal: Work with faculty and staff to explore different ways to reduce the cost of textbooks and digital learning materials from a College-wide perspective.

Results:

- Hosted town hall meetings on the campuses with faculty to understand the resources that the College's Barnes & Noble bookstore provides
- Explored single-textbook options vs. bundled course packages
- Created custom textbooks

TEXTBOOK OPTIONS

Goal: Increase availability of lower-cost textbook options for students, including a rental program, open source materials and strategic partnerships with publishers.

Results:

- Introduced textbook rental and digital options
- Introduced the Barnes & Noble mobile app
- Faculty expanding OER (Open Educational Resources) options for our students

STUDENT TEXTBOOK EXPERIENCE

Goal: Educate students about lower-cost alternatives and conduct a College-wide Textbook Affordability Summit each academic year in which students, faculty and staff can participate.

Results:

- Created registration integration. When registered students look at their schedules in *my Tri-C space*, the page is automatically populated with textbook ISBN and cost
- Allowed the Book Buy Back Program to take place throughout a semester, not only at the end of a semester
- Participated in and hosted State Textbook Affordability Summits