

Faculty Frequently Asked Questions

Why is The University of Southern Mississippi doing this?

This program is an institution-wide response to the increasing number of students who lack access to required course material due to cost. This program makes getting textbooks easier on students, which will ultimately improve their success at USM. Eagle Direct Textbooks is estimated to reduce the cost of traditional textbook purchases by an average of 40 to 50% and provide them by the first day of class.

How much will this cost?

The Eagle Direct Textbook program will cost \$20 per credit hour.

Who do I contact with questions?

For program questions, please contact the bookstore by emailing sm045@bncollege.com.

Why not do more to promote open educational resources?

The Eagle Direct Textbook program fully supports OER and takes open educational resource classes into consideration.

How can we be sure that this will lower book costs for our students?

The University of Southern Mississippi in partnership with Barnes&Noble Education is committed to lowering the costs of course material to our students, and with B&N's integrated supply chain and economies of scale, the Eagle Direct Textbook program brings a new innovative way to provide the most affordable solution for our students.

If I adopt open education resources or do not require a textbook, do my students still have to pay the fee?

Students will pay for the total number of credits taken in a semester, not by the number of courses utilizing the program. Students must either fully opt-in or opt-out for all classes in their course term.

Will this change how textbooks are chosen for my courses?

No. Faculty still can select the content they feel is best for a student's learning experience. The only change will be the need for timely course material adoptions for the best student experience.

Will this limit the choices I have when considering textbooks for adoption?

Not at all. The Eagle Direct Textbook program does not limit your choices.

I currently use a custom textbook. Will that still be an option?

Yes. The Eagle Direct Textbook program supports current course material adoptions and does not require faculty to change their content.

I allow my students to use older editions of the textbook, will that still be an option?

We recommend using current editions of required textbooks. It may not be possible to acquire sufficient copies of old and out of print editions for the class.

If my students are able to buy prior editions cheaper, can they be exempted from paying the fee for my course?

No, students pay for the total number of credits taken by semester, not by the number of books they purchase or the number of courses utilizing the program.

What if my teaching assignment changes (e.g., I was scheduled to teach one course, but later assigned to another)?

The bookstore is committed to helping as they normally do in those situations. We will just work to update the textbook adoption platform with the new materials.

How can I change to books for my class?

Southern Miss and the bookstore will work together on course material adoption timing to provide the students the best experience.

Can we exempt some courses from this model where students generally use the same textbook multiple semesters, so they don't have to pay twice (or more) for the same book?

No, the average price is inclusive of all courses by total credit hours not by course. There is also no guarantee that a student takes the course in sequence, nor that the book does not change between the student taking the course.

How will continuation courses work?

For courses with electronic access, the access will be provided each semester it is required. For courses requiring printed textbooks, a rental copy will be provided each semester it is required but must be returned each semester.

What if a student opts out of The Eagle Direct Textbook program?

If a student opts out, they are choosing to obtain their required material outside of the program. They will lose any inclusive electronic course material access they may have had and will not receive any printed material. They may still get these items individually from the bookstore, or from wherever they see fit.

I'm requiring an electronic access like Mindtap or Webassign, or an ebook for a class. How will my students get that within the Eagle Direct Textbook program?

To the greatest extent possible, we are working to provide direct inclusive access for this – like the First Day model we piloted during the 2020-2021 school year. Access will be provided directly through the course materials link in Canvas. If your class is using such material, you will receive separate notification before class starts to make sure your course materials link is activated and that your courseware modules are set up for student access. There will still be some printed access codes provided from publishers who have not yet integrated with our program.

Can I still use Cengage Unlimited as a course adoption?

Cengage Unlimited is not available as an adoption within the Eagle Direct Textbook program, but whatever specific electronic Cengage resource you adopt will be provided to the student.

Will you describe the student experience?

Undergraduate students will be automatically enrolled in The Eagle Direct Textbook program when they enroll in classes. 30 days before classes start, they will receive a link via email to verify their order and select a delivery preference for their printed material. Integrated electronic course access will be available to them on the first day of class if required. Here is a link to a generic student experience video walk through: https://youtu.be/1U9J9U_gTJ8

Are graduate students eligible to participate in The Eagle Direct Textbook program?

No. The Eagle Direct Textbook program and inclusive access to course material is only available to undergraduate students at this time.