

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Teaching Physics

August 2021 Bulletin: Low-Cost Course Planning

Low-cost course design favors a more equitable learning environment

- 65% of college students have foregone an expensive textbook¹
- 22% of UNC students reported food insecurity²

¹2014 report by Student PIRGs

²2016 survey on UNC Food Insecurity

How do your students benefit from low-cost accommodations?

- Less academic financial stress allows students to focus their resources on self-care and broader opportunities
- Instructor consideration for student life beyond the classroom characterizes a more approachable mentor
- Less expensive college materials make an education more accessible to students from low-income

“High textbook costs deter students from purchasing their assigned materials despite concern for their grades ... [and] can have a ripple effect on students’ other academic decisions.”

- U.S. Public Interest Research Group, 2014

How can you lower the expenses your students face?

- Use **no-cost course materials** through UNC online [library resources](#), borrowing networks among SPS and ViP, and [open-access texts](#)
- **Welcome low-cost resources** such as used textbooks and older editions, [Poll Everywhere](#), [online calculators](#), and [simulated labs or demos](#)
- **Avoid mandating access codes** to publisher systems; use [Sakai](#) to make auto-graded homework
- **Minimize hardware requirements to participate:** avoid requiring clickers, tablets, or printers

There are many ways to learn more

- Explore [free and low-cost textbook options](#) (p. 11-14)
- Sign the [petition](#) for affordable textbooks
- Get in touch with members of ViP and SPS about textbook borrowing possibilities for students: uncvisibilityinphysics@gmail.com

Links and archive: go.unc.edu/uncpa-dei-bulletin