It's easy to reduce textbook costs for students

Students go to great measures to reduce their textbook costs. We've seen it at the Library: they share textbooks with other students, make do with older editions, buy used books, or don't buy or access the textbook at all. In a recent study of BC students, 26% of them reported opting against taking a course due to textbook costs.*

Students have many sources of stress in their lives, and struggling to pay for textbooks shouldn’t be one of them. At KPU, instructors have many options available to help make classroom reading material more accessible to students. The more material you can provide free of cost to your students, the more you can be sure they’ll access required readings.

The information in this handout details the different ways you can get reading material for your students free of cost. The use of library resources, open textbooks and other open educational resources (OERs) means you have many options to achieve zero textbook costs.


What are Open Educational Resources (OERs)?
OERs are any teaching resource that are freely available and published with an open license, such as an open textbook. An open license enables users to reuse, revise, remix and redistribute.

What are Open Textbooks?
Open textbooks have been written by experts and are freely available to students and instructors. Many open textbooks are accompanied with instructional resources and some are even peer reviewed.

What are Zero Textbook Cost programs?
'Zero Textbook Cost' is the designation KPU assigns to courses that utilize class material at no cost to their students. KPU has programs that are wholly comprised of Zero Textbook Cost courses. Instructors at KPU can still have a Zero Textbook Cost course outside these programs—in fact, we encourage it!

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10 ways to achieve zero textbook costs

The OPUS team is here to help. We can teach you how to achieve all ten options.

1 LINK TO ARTICLES IN LIBRARY DATABASES You can link directly to articles from your Moodle sites. See libguides.kpu.ca/ZedCred/articles for a list of databases.

2 ADAPT AN EXISTING OPEN TEXTBOOK Did you know you can customize open textbooks? You can do things like add and edit content or omit information beyond your class scope.

3 STREAM VIDEO from one of the Library’s subscribed databases: Curio, Films on Demand, or the National Film Board. Link to the database or video on Moodle.

4 FIND AND USE OPEN TEXTBOOKS There are many places you can go to search for open textbooks. Try starting with BCcampus or OASIS. Visit libguides.kpu.ca/opentextbooks/find to start searching.

5 APPLY FOR AN OER GRANT This grant program provides funding and staff support to KPU faculty who are interested in creating, adapting and adopting open education resources. Visit kpu.ca/open/grants

6 CREATE AN OPEN TEXTBOOK using Pressbooks.

7 CREATE AN OPEN JOURNAL Publish a departmental journal or design a student project using Open Journal Systems (OJS).

8 LINK TO EBOOKS from the Library’s catalogue.

9 LINK TO TABLES OF CONTENTS from journals the library has full text access to.

10 CREATE A DIGITAL COURSE PACK and make it available to your students in Moodle.

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