

Assigning Your Own Textbook to Students

UBC does not have any specific guidelines or policies on assigning your textbook to students, although individual departments may have. Assigning textbooks is part of academic freedom and a student may enroll in courses because of what they know about the professor from his or her writings, and because they hope to engage in discussion with the professor about those writings in the classroom. UBC's policy on conflict of interest does refer to "having a financial interest in your teaching activities at UBC other than your annual salary".

Here are guidelines on what you might do if you assign your textbook:

- Be transparent. Communicate directly to students the reasoning behind the use of your textbook, potential advantages, and what profits you might make.
- Ensure there are copies of the book on library reserve. Add more copies if the class is larger. The Library has a [textbook policy](#) in place. As funds are limited, the Library buys materials that support teaching and research and not textbooks that students would be expected to purchase for a particular course. Consider giving copies of the textbook to the Library.
- If you are using a course packet, have the campus bookstore make the packets, set the price, and sell the course packets. The campus bookstore uses Fair Dealings to price all of course packs so that the students pay the lowest price possible (and the bookstore can assure the students of this lowest price).
- Check if the bookstore has copies for rent, as well as sale (both new and used), and make sure students know this.
- Have students collaborate to find used copies on the internet.
- Consider donating any profits you make on the textbook, and have students collaborate to suggest a charity.
- Consider putting the textbook on Open Access.
- Declare the use of your textbook in your conflict of interest declaration. Include all the steps you have taken like those above. Include the amount you have earned (or expect to earn) from the textbook.

If you have any corrections or suggestions on this issue, please contact the Conflict of Interest Administrator at conflict.of.interest@ubc.ca or 604-822-8623.

Links of Interest:

American Association of University Professors

<http://www.aaup.org/report/professors-assigning-their-own-texts-students>