

NACS OVERVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION OPPURTUNITY ACT TEXTBOOK PROVISIONS

- Requires institutions of higher education by July 2010 who receive federal financial assistance (this includes private institutions of higher education who receive federal funds) to the “maximum extent practicable” and “in a matter of the institution's choosing” to provide students with accurate course material information including ISBN and retail price when available and practicable for each course listed in the institution’s course schedule used for preregistration and registration purposes, or may otherwise indicate "to be determined."

An institution may satisfy the requirements by providing a link to another appropriate website that satisfies the requirements of information disclosure such as the institution’s college bookstore, provided that such link is clearly and prominently located on the institution's Internet course schedule or printed course schedule. This is similar to the way many current registration systems interface or link with the college bookstore websites and the store’s course material databases which contains the most up-to-date and accurate information;

- Requires that if printed course schedules exists to provide an Internet link to where the course material information is available. If a printed schedule does not exist, the school does not have to create one, nor does it need to create an online schedule either;
- Encourages stakeholders to work together to reduce course material costs;
- Requires textbook publishers by July 2010 to disclose certain course material information to faculty and staff including the net (wholesale) price and packaging options;
- Requires textbook publishers to offer unbundled course materials, unless they are bound by 3rd party contract, customs, or if the materials are designed solely as integrated materials;
- Encourages institutions of higher education to disseminate information to students on campus based initiatives to reduce costs such as used books, guaranteed buy-back, rental programs, e-books, print-on-demand, etc;
- Requires a new Government Accountability Office study in 2013 to review the implementation by institutions, bookstores, and publishers, as well as the cost, and benefits to institutions and students of the textbook provisions;
- Requires institutions to provide their campus stores enrollment information and adoption information.
- Expand the current campus based financial aid programs formula for books and supplies from \$450 to \$600;
- Requires greater reporting of book and supply cost information among other higher education cost reporting requirements;
- Establish an advisory commission and competitive grant program to make course materials more accessible for students with disabilities; and
- Creates a new competitive pilot grant to fund up to 10 institutions and their college bookstores who wish to experiment with offering students textbook rental programs to reduce the net costs for students.