

Selecting the Textbook

Choosing a textbook to meet the needs of a particular course can be a challenge. And with increasing pressure to provide economical choices to students, the pressure to align and integrate the textbook into the course instruction becomes even more crucial.

The attached rubric provides a framework for making a textbook choice and documenting the reasons why a textbook was chosen for a particular course. This can be used to compare ratings in a group decision or to guide a single faculty member choosing a specific book for a specific course. The weighting is the importance of that item to the faculty involved while fit indicates how closely the textbook matches that criterion. The books whose fit matches the importance best would be the best choice for the course.

Of course, this rubric would be adapted for each course and each search. This rubric provides a starting point for that customization.

Rubric Parameters in Choosing Textbooks		Book 1	Book 2	Book 3
Primary Textbook	Weight (0-5)	Fit (0-5)	Fit (0-5)	Fit (0-5)
Dimension				
Writing style appropriate for class level				
Objectives supported by text				
Major objective 1				
Major objective 2				
Major objective 3				
Major objective 4				
Major objective 5				
Class alignment with book - Textbook sequencing				
Fit of material - excess material for course				
Accuracy				
Completeness				
Individual chapter availability				
End of chapter review/problem sets				
Textbook Style - visual appeal				
Use of and availability of references/footnotes				
Price				
Features of interest				
Case studies				
Illustrations/photographs				
Up to date				
Student reaction				
Book strong where I am weak and vice versa				
Book can carry over to semester 2, etc (for multi semester or continuation courses)				
Is author on the faculty of the department or school?				
"Comfort" with the book				
Auxilliary Materials				
PowerPoint lecture outlines				
Web extra practice practice/tutorials				
Technology support code, database, simulations, audio, video.				
Toolkits (Like editors, compilers, word processors, graphics editors, layout tools, simulators, statistical packages).				
Testbanks				
Testbanks - Blackboard compatible				
Problem solutions				