



2022-23
IMPACT
REPORT

Letter from the Vice Chancellor



The Division of Student Affairs is proud to report that the Equitable Access textbook program has successfully completed its third year of providing affordable, day-one access to textbooks for our students. The past year was marked by a continued increase in participation and in addition to broad based affordability across all undergraduate students, grants to cover an entire term's worth of textbooks are being provided to 7,500 of our lowest income students, among other achievements outlined in this report.

As we look back on year three, we are proud that the spirit of innovation and leadership at UC Davis has inspired hundreds of colleges and universities to develop flat-rate textbook programs of their own modeled after Equitable Access. It is clear that Equitable Access is affecting change beyond our campus, and that this revolutionary model is benefiting more and more students nationally each year.

Beyond our commitment to equity and access, furthering the campus commitment to sustainability is a priority of UC Davis Stores. It is a point of pride that this year, UC Davis became the first campus in higher education to achieve a carbon-neutrality for its textbook program.

I encourage you to read more about the bold steps UC Davis Stores is taking to keep UC Davis at the forefront of innovation while continuing to support our students.

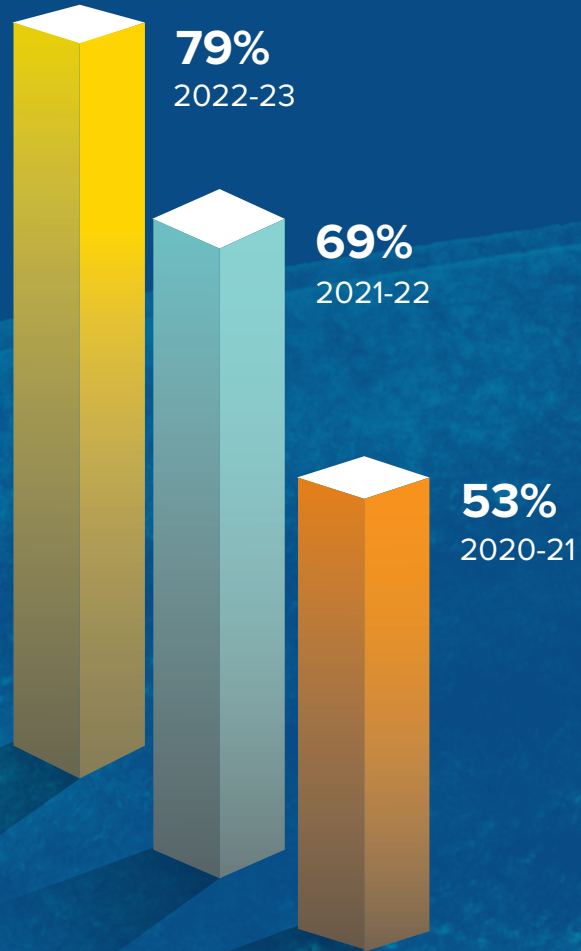
Pablo Reguerín

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pablo G. Reguerín". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
University of California, Davis



Academic Year Participation

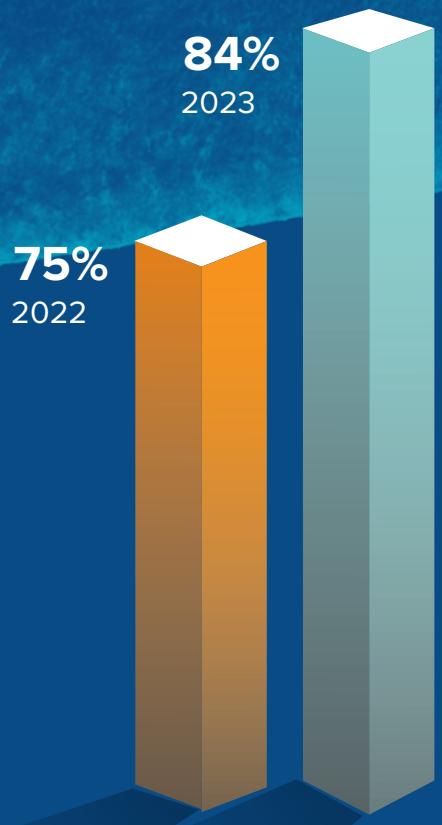


Student Participation Continues to Climb

Increasing access to required textbooks is the primary goal of Equitable Access. Before the launch of the program, 78% of UC Davis students self-reported that they did not have access to all of their required textbooks in the prior 12 months. After the launch, that number dropped to 27%. Student participation in Equitable Access has continued to increase dramatically each year; undergraduate participation was 79% in the 2022-23 academic year.

In 2022, UC Davis Stores expanded Equitable Access to the summer terms with a price of \$75 per session. Summer participation in Equitable Access debuted at 75% in 2022 and increased to 84% in 2023.

Summer Session Participation



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Giving Back

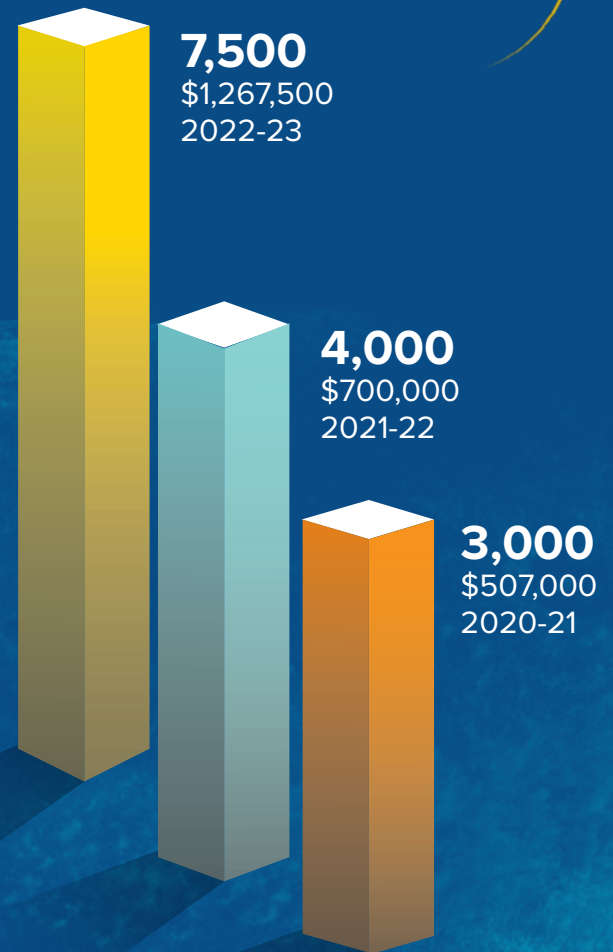
Continuing Support of Students-In-Need

Access to textbooks is an equity issue. It directly affects student success and time to completion; those who can least afford it spend more time and effort to graduate. Equitable Access ensures that all undergraduate students pay the same low rate for their textbooks, regardless of major. But beyond that, UC Davis Stores is helping even more students access their textbooks by providing thousands of needs-based grants each year.

UC Davis Stores will be using **funds from the 2022-23** academic year to provide **7,500** grants totaling **\$1,267,500** to students in need.

As a non-profit department within the Division of Student Affairs, UC Davis Stores directs surplus funds back into the Equitable Access program in two ways: by lowering the price of the program and/or awarding full textbook grants to the lowest-income UC Davis students selected by Financial Aid. In 2021-22, UC Davis Stores lowered the quarterly rate of Equitable Access from \$199 to \$169 and awarded 3,000 grants totaling \$507,000. Feedback from the Equitable Access Student Advisory Council showed support for continuing to use surplus funds for textbook grants for low-income students. In the 2022-23 academic year, UC Davis Stores provided over 4,000 grants totaling \$700,000 to students in need. In the current 2023-24 academic year, UC Davis Stores will be using funds generated during the 2022-23 academic year to provide 7,500 grants totaling \$1,267,500 to students in need.

Grants and Award Amounts by Year

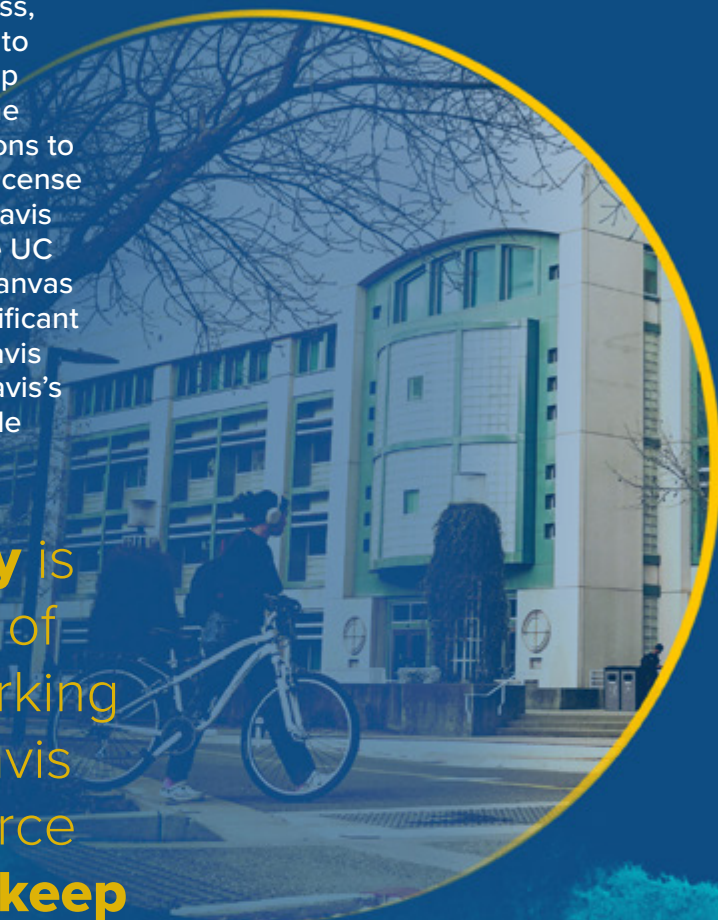


Impactful Partnerships

The dedicated staff at the UC Davis Library are essential partners for Equitable Access, working in tandem with UC Davis Stores to digitally source adopted materials to keep overall academic content costs down. The library cross-references textbook adoptions to see which titles they may have a digital license for and when a match is found, the UC Davis Stores textbook team places a link to the UC Davis Library resource on the relevant Canvas course page. This partnership has a significant impact on the continued efforts of UC Davis Stores to pass on surplus funds to UC Davis's lowest-income students through Equitable Access grants.

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Academic Technology Services (ATS) has been a crucial partner in navigating the integration of the Equitable Access functionality into the Canvas Learning Management System during the development of the program. The ATS team also enables UC Davis Stores to implement new, cutting edge educational technology products requested by UC Davis faculty. ATS continues to work with the staff of UC Davis Stores to provide a seamless end-to-end experience for our students.

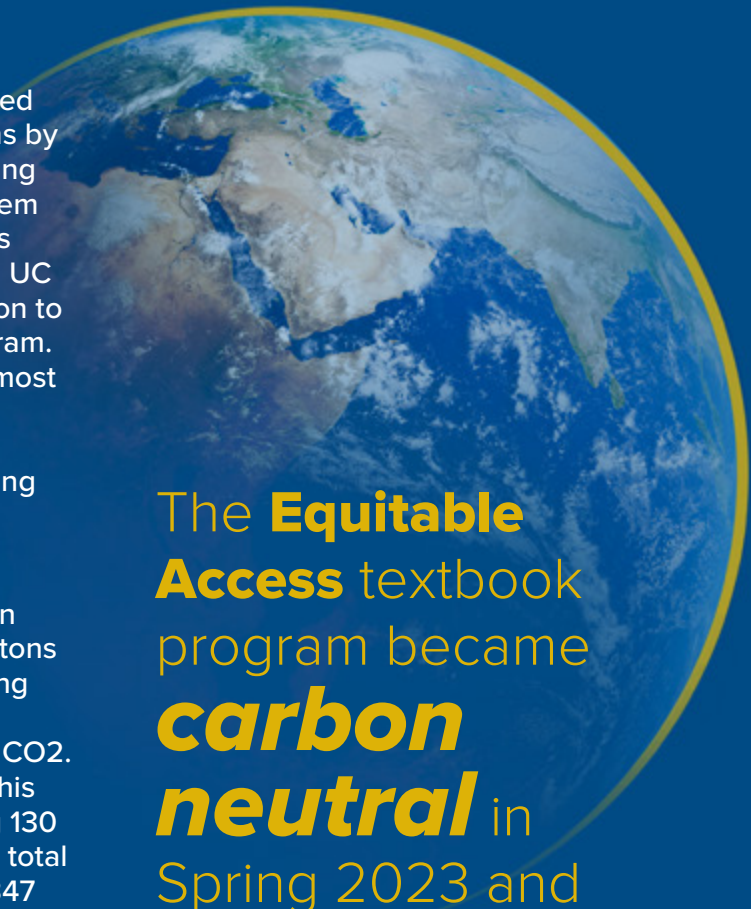


Sustainability

Equitable Access Achieves Carbon-Neutrality

The University of California has committed to drastically reduce its carbon emissions by becoming carbon neutral by 2025, making it the first major research university system to set this goal. In spring 2023, UC Davis Stores worked with VitalSource to make UC Davis the first campus in higher education to achieve a carbon neutral textbook program. Transitioning to digital textbooks is the most important measure of carbon reduction; beyond this, UC Davis Stores is also committed to accounting for the remaining emissions from the Equitable Access program.

In spring 2023, the print-to-digital carbon reduction for Equitable Access was 601 tons of CO₂. After the reduction, the remaining emissions from the Equitable Access program was measured at 159.8 tons of CO₂. Compared to print textbook programs, this reduction in emissions is equal to taking 130 cars off the road; since spring 2022, the total reduction in emissions is equivalent to 347 cars removed from the road.



The **Equitable Access** textbook program became **carbon neutral** in Spring 2023 and since Spring 2022 has taken the equivalent of **347 cars off the road** for an entire year.

VitalSource worked with Watershed Technologies to source vetted high-quality carbon avoidance/offset reforestation projects that offset the 159.8 tons of CO₂ from the Equitable Access digital-first program for the spring 2023 quarter. The Equitable Access team is proud to be a leader in sustainability by providing the first carbon-neutral textbook program in higher education.



Integrating Student Feedback

Since the launch of Equitable Access, UC Davis Stores has prioritized gathering student feedback and implementing changes to provide the most seamless experience possible. This year, feedback from students and the Equitable Access Student Advisory Council inspired several improvements to the program.

1. Students indicated a need for more efficient access to Library-licensed e-books. Starting in 2023, when outside of the campus Wi-Fi network, students are now automatically prompted for their campus login, eliminating the need to gain access through a separate VPN. More development is currently in the works to speed this process further with direct, one-click links to the content from the Canvas Learning Management System.
2. To speed response time for program questions and assistance, the student-run Equitable Access Customer Service team has implemented a live chat service that provides real-time access to live customer service agents.
3. Equitable Access grant recipients indicated a preference for grants to cover the full year of textbooks, versus being awarded one term at a time. Without knowing each quarter whether they would be awarded a grant, recipients indicated they felt the need to prematurely opt out of Equitable Access; their opted-out status resulted in the grant going to another student. The shift from quarterly to yearly grants took place in the 2023-24 school year.
4. In accordance with feedback from the Equitable Access Student Advisory Council In the upcoming 2023-24 academic year, UC Davis Stores will be providing 7,500 grants totaling \$1,267,500 to students in need.



Looking Ahead

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