December 23, 2018

STATEMENT TO LIMESTONE COLLEGE STUDENTS & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

NEW TEXTBOOK POLICY AT LIMESTONE COLLEGE

As many of you are aware, Limestone College recently adopted a new textbook policy that will go into effect starting with the start of the spring semester of 2019. The College recently emailed out a Frequently Asked Questions flyer, but also wanted to follow that up with a note to all of our students (we ask our Day Campus students to pass this information along to their parents/guardians).

As a student-focused institution, Limestone has deliberately embarked on a path to offer students access to quality learning at a more affordable price.

Limestone officials are aware that the cost of course materials has greatly increased at all institutions over the years. The new textbook policy will make textbooks more reasonable, while also making the process much easier. Instead of students being faced with the prospect of paying several hundred dollars for a single textbook as can often be the case, the new flat fee will be $25 per credit hour for classes that require a book – so for a three-credit hour class, the textbook cost will be $75. Classes that do not require textbooks will not be charged the per credit hour fee.

This new flat-rate textbook system is a simple way for schools like Limestone to bring down the cost of attendance – especially as students advance into upper-division courses where textbooks can often be extremely expensive to purchase. Similar systems at colleges and universities across the country have cumulatively saved students millions of dollars compared to the retail costs of equivalent materials.

A key difference in Limestone’s new system and buying print textbooks is that students effectively lease the content for the duration of their course, rather than owning the material. An important advantage of the new policy is that students will have all the materials they need ready on the first day of class. When students have access to all their course materials up front, their chances of success improve greatly.
Students will no longer have to order textbooks or stand in long lines at the Campus Store. Instead, all orders will be filled automatically based on each student’s class registration. Financial aid will continue to cover book costs, and students will be notified if there is a balance due if financial aid does not cover all the costs. Day Campus students can retrieve their books at the Campus Store (known as the Saints Shop) on the first day of classes. Online and Evening Program students will receive their books in a variety of ways that they will be notified about prior to the start of classes. Students will return the materials at the end of each term. They also have the option to buy the books at the end of each class and if they do purchase the books, they will receive a credit toward the purchase price.

Limestone is providing this information as an act of transparency so that our new and returning students can make decisions based on up-front knowledge of what they will be paying, rather than having to hunt down burdensome fees that can be difficult to decipher and compare at many institutions. The College can now provide students with a complete financial picture of the total cost of education to complete their desired programs. A more straightforward price structure is a big step toward making budgeting easier for students and parents.

Limestone expects that this move to a flat rate fee system for textbooks will support enrollment growth, ultimately making our already outstanding programs of study even more competitive and attractive in today’s market.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this added information about the new textbook policy. Along with this note, we are again providing the FAQ flyer.