



PROFESSIONAL BOOKSELLERS SCHOOL

2026 STORE & OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT



Store & Operations Management 2026

Course Meeting Days: Thursdays

Course Meeting Times: 5-6:15 PM EST

Course Length: 4 months, March 12-June 18, 2026

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Store & Operations Management is designed to cover all of the day to day and long term operational and other business-related needs of an independent bookstore, considering both management topics and the daily tasks assigned to individual booksellers. Store examples and tutorials will provide opportunities for learning, comparison, and implementation within each student's store. A mix of lectures, workshops, handouts, and assignments will be used to guide the student towards creating or expanding store resources and systems for real-time applications. Assignments do not require access to a student's own store's materials or policies, but they are encouraged to use them in completing the assignments.

COURSE COMPONENTS:

- 14 live classes via Zoom
- Bi-weekly course emails with links, recordings, and homework
- Discussions, questions, and homework alerts in Discord
- Weekly homework assignment in your personal workbook



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OBJECTIVES: This course will provide a thorough overview of the systems, plans, and processes for running an independent bookstore. At the end of this course, students will have important documents in place, updated, or substantially outlined (depending on your starting point), including:

- Store operations manual
- Task management and annual calendar
- Financial management systems and budget
- Staff handbook and staff management systems
- Inventory, supplies, and merchandising plans
- Marketing plan (digital and analog)
- Emergency preparedness plan
- Leadership tools

PREREQUISITES: All students will need to install the latest version of Zoom and create a free Discord account if they don't already have one ([here's a guide to getting started](#)). Participants must have a current membership with the American Booksellers Association (ABA) and/or their regional booksellers association. Preference is given to participants who are employed by or who own a retail bookstore (this includes a mobile or pop-up shop) that has been in existence for at least one year. Others may apply and will be considered on an individual basis. *This course is not for someone who does not own, work, or plan to work in a book selling business.*

REQUIRED ACCESS AND RESOURCES:

- Access to the internet and a computer.
- Primary email account to receive course communications.
- Able to use Zoom video conferencing software to participate in webinars.
- Ability to view documents in Google Drive, Word, PDF, and Excel formats.
- A POS system that tracks individual inventory and supports purchase orders/receiving
- A Discord account (free)

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY: Online attendance is required for all participants. Students are allowed to miss up to two synchronous classes (though they should view the recorded program after the class); however, too many missed classes may result in being dropped from the program. We also encourage you to keep your video on and to participate, when appropriate, in the webinar. Please make your best



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efforts to join class on-time. Recordings will be shared within a few days of the class on Discord and in the class follow-up email.

COMMUNICATION: Information and important announcements will be communicated during each class, via email, and on our class Discord channels. Current students may ask questions during class and/or message private or public questions to instructors in Discord. Students and instructors will also communicate directly about homework assignments in the student's Ops Workbook.

SMALL GROUPS AND OFFICE HOURS SESSIONS: At the end of each class, you will go into small group meetings. These are a chance to debrief on the class material, work on the homework assignment, and generally problem-solve and learn from each other. You can also use the time to check-in with an instructor, to make sure you're on track in the course and to ask any questions you may have. If a student has a specific question about the material in a class, they can always message the instructor directly in Discord - or post the question in the class channel for everyone.

HOW TO SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS: you will work on your Key Takeaways in Google Drive or your preferred digital space and will then complete the questions included in your personal Ops Workbook. After each class, you'll complete the assignments and then let the instructors know that it's ready to be reviewed by posting in your personal homework channel in Discord. Please include the class name or number in the post, i.e. "Homework for Class X is ready for review." Assignments must be completed - and instructors alerted - by the next scheduled class. No work will be accepted after June 25 without prior permission.

GRADING: Assignments will be Pass/Fail. Failing assignments will be given feedback on how to bring the assignment up to standard and the assignment can be redone prior to the end of the module. No work will be accepted after June 25 without prior permission.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Homework and store data submitted by students during this class is kept confidential and is not shared with anyone without the student's permission. Anything shared with permission will be anonymized. Instructors are reviewing for comprehension of assignments and completion of tasks. It is also understood that the work done in this class is the sole property of the student, regardless of source of registration funding. Materials shared and the information taught in this class is to the benefit of the student and their place of employment. Students are expected to incorporate the forms, procedures, and best practices from the Professional Booksellers School course to their bookstore work.

DOCUMENT STORAGE: Class descriptions, lists of handouts and resources, and homework instructions are all included in the workbook. Handouts will be shared in Discord. Students should save the link to their workbook provided to them at the beginning of the class. Students can link to their documents directly in their workbooks, or upload them to Discord if they prefer, to complete the assignments.



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Instructor Information

Core Faculty

Dean Anna Thorn, The Potter's House, Washington, DC
Instructor Carol Price, BookPeople, Moscow, ID
Instructor Candice Huber, Tubby and Coo's Mid-City Book Shop, New Orleans, LA
Instructor Julia Davis, The Book Worm, Powder Springs, GA
Instructor Tim Smith, Schuler Books, Ann Arbor, MI

Guest Instructors

Angela Trigg, The Haunted Bookshop
Cyanne Stonesmith, Trident Booksellers and Café
Elizabeth Jordan, Nowhere Bookshop
Lily Clay, Eagle Harbor Books
Michael Newton, Asbury Book Coop
Nathan Halter, Batch for Books

Certification Criteria

- Attend a minimum of 12 of the 14 classes
- Watch recordings of missed classes
- Receive passing grades on 10 of 12 homework assignments

Course Calendar

All classes are at 5 PM ET. These dates and time are subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.

Class #	Date / Time	Instructor	Class Name
1	March 12	Everyone	How to Succeed at Operations Management
2	March 19	Julia, Anna, Michael	Define Your Store
3	March 26	Anna, Carol, Angela	Store Systems
4	April 2	Candice, Anna	Financial Systems
5	April 9	Anna, Elizabeth, Nathan	Budget & Batch
6	April 16	Carol, Elizabeth, Anna	Inventory & Merchandising
7	April 30	Carol, Cyanne	Staff & Human Resources
8	May 7	Anna, Tim	Staff Handbook



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9	May 14	Tim, Carol, Elizabeth	Staff Management
10	May 21	Candice	Emergency Preparedness
11	May 28	Julia, Anna	Events & Marketing
12	June 4	Julia, Anna	Create Your Own Marketing Plan
13	June 11	Carol, Lily	Websites & Digital Marketing
14	June 18	Everyone	Leadership Discussion
	June 25		Final day to turn in homework

Professional Booksellers School, Inc.'s Code of Conduct

The Professional Booksellers School, Inc. (PBS) values the dignity of everyone with whom we interact. Our safety and anti-harassment policies are critical to ensuring that this core value guides how we speak and how we act. All participants in PBS courses and events are required to adhere to PBS's code of conduct, as described below. This includes booksellers, PBS staff, instructors, speakers/presenters, guests, donors, volunteers, and all affiliated students.

PBS is committed to a broad vision of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This includes providing a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), ability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in all of its activities or operations. We do not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or other disrespectful or unlawful behavior based on any of these characteristics. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for our students, staff, volunteers, instructors, donors, subcontractors, vendors, and clients.

Behaviors that violate this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive verbal comments related to any protected category above
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Unwelcome propositions, attention, words, or conduct of a sexual nature
- Unwelcome virtual contact inside or outside of PBS settings
- Inappropriate or obscene jokes, remarks, or gestures *Intimidation, stalking, or trolling
- Disrespect towards difference of opinion
- Sustained disruption of speakers, conversations, classes, or events
- Unauthorized screenshots, photography, or audio or video recording

PBS expects all participants in its programs to follow established rules throughout official classes, office hours, virtual platforms, and related social gatherings.

PBS takes any violation of this policy seriously. Accordingly, participants who violate this policy may, in the judgment and discretion of PBS, be asked to stop; may be expelled from a PBS class or event, without refund if applicable; may be prevented from attending future PBS classes or events; may be banned from virtual platforms; and may have future PBS participation privileges revoked.



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If you are being harassed, observe someone else being harassed, or have concerns about potential violations of this policy, please notify PBS staff immediately. PBS will take all appropriate action in response to protect anyone affected by violations of this policy.

Privacy Statement

For Stores

PBS asks for both public (address, etc) and private (square footage, POS, sales levels) information from stores who are enrolled. We ask for this information to help us understand and support students. The only public-facing information in our website directory is the store's name, address, contact information, and regional trade association. PBS uses both private and public information to analyze the effectiveness of our courses and our school, but reports only aggregate data. All other store information is protected and available only to PBS staff.

For Individuals

PBS asks for both public (bookstore, job title) and private (home address, demographic, years of experience) information from individuals who are members. The only public-facing information is the student's name, bookstore, job title, and earned certifications. PBS uses both private and public information to analyze the effectiveness of our courses and our school, but reports only aggregate data. All other information is protected and available only to PBS staff. The exception to this is for students who are receiving financial support or reimbursement from their regional association, with whom their enrollment, attendance, and certification status will be shared.

For Homework

We recognize that homework can contain personal or sensitive information. Student homework assignments are uploaded into a location available only to the individual student, PBS staff, and instructors, with the exception of projects delivered live in class. These projects are announced well in advance and student presentations are never recorded. All student homework for PBS is owned by the student, not PBS or the student's employer, and is confidential and protected. All shared, spoken, shown, submitted, and typed information is protected and confidential and not to be discussed, saved, or shared outside of applicable PBS classes, platforms, or events without express permission.