

Guidelines

Acquisitions, Development, and Peer Review Process

Baylor University Press

Baylor University Press (BUP) is a hands on, development oriented press. We see ourselves as a midwife to your book. We are also its paidagogos.

Manuscripts submitted to BUP will undergo a thorough acquisitions assessment, rigorous developmental editing, and a serious peer review process. Many good books do not survive this process. On the other hand, many good books become stronger as a result.

The Process

Convince the Editor, Convince the Team. Team Editorial consists of the Director, Acquisitions Editor, and Developmental Editors. Once an editor latches on to a project, then the team evaluates and expresses interest in the project. A book is not an object. It is like having or adopting a child. You live with it for a long time. We want to make sure it is right for us. And we turn down good and publishable book manuscripts all the time.

The Project Comes Together. Once the team is happy, we then do serious work to get a proposal plus sample chapters (or occasionally, a full manuscript) into shape. At that point the project undergoes external peer review. Everything we publish goes to peer review—sometimes both early (at proposal stage) and late (at final manuscript stage).

Review and Response. When peer review is received, BUP's Editorial staff produces a comprehensive Revision Plan for the project, inclusive of issues raised by peer review as well as internal editorial requirements. Authors will draft a response to the review, addressing any required revisions in that response. At this point, some projects may be declined based on external peer review, either from insurmountable objections raised, inability to address required revisions, or the project's inability to receive approval from the University Press Committee based on negative peer review.

University Press Committee. The Press then makes a formal presentation to the University Press Committee (UPC), recommending publication. The UPC meets multiple times a year to evaluate projects in development. We do not take anything to the UPC we are not expecting to be approved.

Contract and Submission. After UPC, we then send a formal contract, schedule a publication date, and begin the march toward submission.

Occasionally, a book manuscript arrives fully formed, sails through peer review, and moves directly into publication. This is seldom the case. But if Augustine is to be believed, we value most that upon which we expend the greatest labor. Potential BUP authors should be prepared to put this theory to the test, knowing that we labor alongside you and seek a common vision for the good of your book.