

Saving \$\$ on Textbooks:

Tips, Hints, & Alternative Resources

Textbooks are expensive! However, they are important to the learning process. Scholarship Foundation estimates you will spend approximately \$1,600¹ on textbooks each year. However, just because textbooks are expensive, doesn't mean there aren't ways to save!

1. **Buy Used:** Most school bookstores offer used textbooks. This is a great way to save money, as new books often cost significantly more. Remember though, used textbooks go fast and it is first-come, first-served! Visit the bookstore early to take advantage of these opportunities! You can also check out: www.textbookunderground.com
2. **Textbook Rental:** Many schools now offer textbook rental programs. These are great programs, which allow students to benefit from having the appropriate textbooks and materials, but save on cost. Check with your institution to determine if they offer a rental program. You may also be able to take advantage of one of these programs²:
 - a. www.campusbookrentals.com: Offers insurance option, free shipping, & a 15-day grace period.
 - b. www.bookrenter.com: Excellent book selection, an easy-to-navigate website, & multiple shipping options. Rental books available, as well as for purchase.
 - c. www.skyo.com: Has an Extra Credit program. Offers books for purchase and rental.
 - d. www.chegg.com: Great product selection. Books available for purchase and rental. Chegg also **buys** textbooks!

¹ This is an estimate based on an average. Please note that some students may spend less on textbooks, while others will spend more (i.e., STEM students).

² Be aware! Textbook rental has its benefits, but you may be charged late fees if you fail to return a book on time. Read all policies carefully!

3. **Shop Around:** Remember, you do not have to purchase a textbook from the on-campus bookstore. Yes, these places are convenient, but the mark-up and costs are high. Consider these alternatives:
- a. **Local competitors:** Some areas have independent textbook stores. Check near your college (or ask an older student!) for alternative locations where you may be able to buy textbooks at a more affordable price.
 - b. **Older or former students:** Find an older student in your major; they may be willing to sell some of their textbooks to you!
 - c. **Search online:** There are many great online opportunities. I recommend checking www.cheapesttextbooks.com; it does an online search of websites like E-Bay, Half.com, Amazon, etc.³
 - d. **Compare editions.** Sometimes you may have to buy the newest edition, but oftentimes the differences are subtle. You may want to check with your professor first, but if you don't absolutely need the newest edition, buy the older one.
 - e. **Prioritize purchases.** Some books are more necessary than others. Review your syllabus or email the professor prior to class starting and determine which books you absolutely need—and which ones you need first. You may even be able to photocopy pages when only a chapter or two of a book is necessary.
 - f. **Share books.** Pool resources with friends and classmates. Be careful though, you do each need to do the work separately. If you decide to share, create an agreement to determine how to divide up books for studying time, reading, and coursework.
 - g. **Borrow from the library!** You have to be prompt in order to take advantage of this opportunity, but many schools have textbooks in the library. See about borrowing the book; some school libraries offer extended borrowing times.

³ When purchasing books online, it is helpful to have the ISBN Number. You can often find these numbers on the textbooks themselves (I always wrote them down during quick trip to the bookstore—or even the bookstore's website if I was lucky!)