

Saving Money on Textbooks and Course Materials

Depending on what materials are available at your school and for your courses, you may have several lower-cost options to obtain your books:

- If your course uses a hard-copy textbook, consider buying a used copy or renting your textbook from a bookstore or online.
- If you purchase your textbook, consider reselling that textbook, if allowed, when you are done with the course.
- Even with new textbooks, you may be able to save money by shopping around.
- Some schools use open-access texts and online content to offer students further savings over hard-copy textbooks. Open-access texts are available for free.
- If your course uses paid online content, your school may have negotiated a deal with the publisher that will allow you online access at a fraction of the cost you would pay for a physical book. The paid online content may also come with study tools and other content in addition to the textbook.

Your options for course material formats will vary by school, instructor, and course, so learning what your options are and knowing about any cost-reduction initiatives your school may have can result in significant savings.

A Note About ISBNs

Your school must publish the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) for each course text in the online course schedule entry if the ISBN is available. The ISBN identifies the specific edition of the book that's required for your class and helps you be sure you're obtaining the right book when you search for it. If an ISBN is unavailable, the school should provide the author, title, publisher, and copyright date.