

Seven Tricks to Save Big Bucks on College Textbooks

1. Start with a Search Tool

The starting point is to use a free online search tool to compare prices, like <https://www.bookfinder.com/textbooks> . These tools are both easy to use and the results show you prices across many online sellers.

2. Buy Used

Buying a used textbook is the easiest and quickest way to save money. The key is to make sure you are buying a book that is in reasonable condition. Check iFlipd.com, chegg.com, knetbooks.com, and ebay.com too.

3. Rent

Another option is to rent textbooks. While initially the rental prices appear attractive, keep in mind that you can't sell the book back. When you buy new or used textbooks, you can recoup some of the cost by selling the books after you've aced the final exam.

4. Go Electronic

Amazon offers several options beyond simply buying the book new. A search for our text yielded both used prices and rental prices. While these options were included in the search results from the tool I used, Amazon offers another option--ebooks. Ebooks cost a fraction of the price of new books and can also be rented.

5. Visit the Library

For those really looking to save money, the library may be an option for some of your textbooks. To make this work, however, there are several obstacles you must clear. First, of course, the book must be available at your local library. Second, many libraries do not permit patrons to checkout textbooks and other resources. As a result, you may be required to study at the library every time you need the book. And finally, even if you can check out the book, it's unlikely you'll be permitted to keep it for an entire semester.

6. Check with Your School

Colleges and universities are well aware of the soaring cost of textbooks. And some schools are doing something about it. In a recent report by the LA Times, officials at California State University have taken several measures to reduce the cost of course materials. In addition to offering lower cost options such as ebooks, rentals, and buy-back programs, they are encourage professors to design courses that use lower cost textbooks. As a result, it's worth checking with both your professors and administration to see what cost-saving options are available.

7. Share

Finally, considering sharing the textbook with a classmate and splitting the cost. While sharing adds some level of inconvenience, it's the quickest way to cut your textbook costs in half. The LA Times article noted above reported that textbook costs topped \$1,000 per year, according to Cal State officials. Reducing that cost by half represents a significant cost savings.

You have a \$250 budget for books this semester and need to have for class:

Book	How bought? New or used paper copy Rent paper copy Buy or rent ebook	Why did you choose to buy, rent, ebook?	Total Cost (Remember shipping and rental fees)
The Norton Anthology of American Literature (Ninth Edition) (Vol. Package 1: Volumes A and B) 978-0393264548			
College Algebra 5 th Edition Beecher, Penna, Bittinger 978-0321969576			
Psychology, 11th Edition Myers, DeWall 978-1464140815			
American History: Connecting with the Past 15th Edition Brinkley 978-0073513294			
			Total Cost

Were you able to stay under budget? Why or why not?

What did you learn from this experience?