

GUIDE FOR BUYING COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are surprisingly expensive, but textbooks are essential to success in college. Textbooks can cost as much as \$600 per semester (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/quick-guide-college-costs>). Textbooks can be purchased online through any of the online retailers listed below. We have provided a few tips for making online textbook purchases.

Where to find textbook info:

- Click “Course Offerings” on the OHIO Chillicothe website. This will bring up the schedule of days/times of classes. Click on the triangle symbol ► of the classes for which you are registered. Textbook info may be listed if the professor has entered it.
- Log in to Blackboard and look at course syllabi. Textbooks are often listed on course syllabi or elsewhere in Blackboard. Syllabi are not always available in advance of the first day of class.
- Get textbook info from professor/syllabi on the first day of class.

Consider the following when purchasing online:

- Check out the textbook publisher’s website. Publishers may offer an e-text for less.
- Use search engines that specialize in book searches*, like chegg.com, campusbooks.com, valorebooks.com, collegebooksdirect.com, hpb.com, textbookspyder.com, affordabook.com, addall.com, bookfinder.com, or amazon.com.
- Comparison shop.
- Be sure to search for the correct edition of the textbook.
- You won’t be able to inspect the textbook or see its condition. There are scams out there, so buyer beware.
- Consider renting the textbook. Look carefully at rental agreements and return procedures/timelines.
- Consider shipping time and cost.
- Be sure to understand seller’s policy on returns or refunds.

Other things to consider:

- Try the OUC Book Swap and Sell Facebook group. Ask friends or relatives, if they have texts for the courses you are taking.
- The OU Libraries typically won’t have copies of textbooks on the shelf to check out. However, many professors will place textbooks on “reserve” for students to use in the library for short periods of time.
- Other state university libraries may have the text you are seeking. Check the “OhioLink” database on the OUC library webpage. An OUC Librarian can assist you with this search. Short lending periods may apply.

Textbook purchases are considered an “out of pocket” expense. If you cannot afford to purchase the textbooks out of pocket and your financial aid is not complete, you should consider cancelling your registration before classes begin and attending in a future term. See the Financial Aid Office for more information.

At the end of the term, you can:

- Keep the text if you will use it for another class.
- Sell it privately.

*Ohio University Chillicothe does not endorse any textbook seller/provider. Students are encouraged to read purchasing, rental, and return policies carefully and to be educated consumers.