

Textbook tips: saving money on books

Books can cost anywhere from \$300 - \$1000 each term, depending on your major and courses. This is why we urge you to shop around before you purchase!

Some schools offer 'book vouchers' to financial aid recipients - call your financial aid office to see if you qualify!

Ask friends & classmates



- Students who previously took the class may be willing to sell/give their old books to you
- Check your college Facebook groups ('UMass Boston class of 2026')
- See if you can exchange books with other students or share books with students taking the same class.

Check the library



- Sometimes professors put assigned books "on reserve" at the library, so students can check them out for a few hours or one day at a time
- If you only need a few chapters, consider making a photocopy

Find books for free online

You may be able to access older, widely-used works for free online:



- bookboon.com
- gutenberg.org
- books.google.com
- openlibrary.org
- open.umn.edu/opentextbooks
- libretext.org
- bookshare.org
- free-ebooks.net
- bookscoouter.com
- libgen.li

Rent / buy used books online

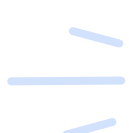


- Consider renting instead of buying - that way you can pay less than the retail price of the book, use it for a term, and return it later
- Many online bookstores offer affordable, used copies of books:

- Amazon.com/textbooks
- Chegg.com
- Valorebooks.com
- ecampus.com
- biggerbooks.com

Use bookfinder.com to search every major catalog online and find the best price on your books

Buy old editions



- Ask your professors if you may use older editions of assigned books, which are less expensive than newer versions
- Chapters and page numbers may be different, but content is usually the same

Campus bookstore



- Books will likely be most expensive at the campus bookstore
- If possible, rent or buy a used version instead of buying new
- Sometimes a used book from your bookstore will be cheaper than one you find online after shipping costs are factored in