

# **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:

- <u>bookboon.com</u>
- <u>gutenberg.org</u>
- <u>books.google.com</u>
- <u>openlibrary.org</u>
- <u>libretext.org</u>
- <u>bookshare.org</u>
- free-ebooks.net
- <u>bookscouter.com</u>
- <u>libgen.li</u>
- <u>open.umn.edu/opentextbooks</u>
- 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:
  - <u>Amazon.com/textbooks</u>
  - <u>Chegg.com</u>
  - <u>Valorebooks.com</u>
  - ecampus.com
  - <u>biggerbooks.com</u>

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

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