



COLLEGE BOOK BUYING GUIDE

TIPS AND
TRICKS TO
SAVE MONEY
WHEN BUYING
BOOKS

FYI

- Underlined texts indicate a hyperlink to a different slide in the presentation or an outside web source.

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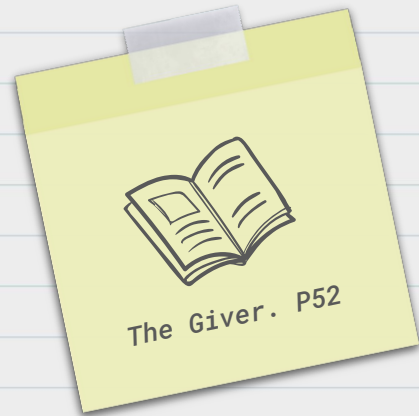
Introduction

Buying books for college courses can be extremely expensive. On top of tuition, meal plans, and housing, textbooks are an additional fee that we encounter. In this guide, we provide you with the tips and tricks to book buying and how to save money while doing so!

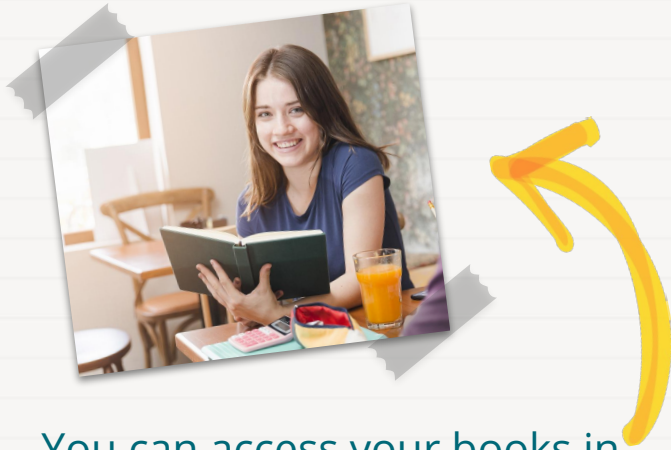


"Today a reader.
Tomorrow a leader."

-Margaret Fuller



Book Formats



You can access your books in many different formats. Which one is the best option for you?

- PDF Versions
- Looseleaf
- Hardcover
- Paperback
- E-Book
- Audiobook

Do you actually need the book?

Attendance

Are you positive you want to stay in the class?



Ask your peers

Did previous students *actually* use the book?



Email the professor first

Is the textbook recommended or required?



Review the syllabus

Are there any books on the updated syllabus?



What is a syllabus?

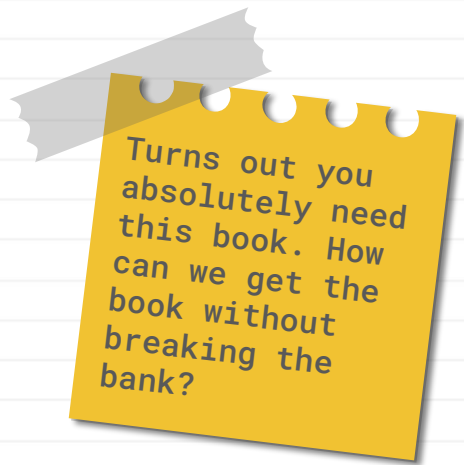
A syllabus is an outline of the course. It usually includes your assignments, your course calendar and your professor's contact information.

The professor may give you a syllabus on the first day of class. This is usually the most up-to-date syllabus.

How to effectively use the syllabus:

- Save your professor's contact information
- Highlight all due dates
- Take note of any required texts
- Work ahead so you can ask questions beforehand

You need the book! What are your first steps?



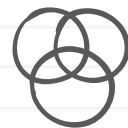
Check the library

Your campus library has thousands of books available to you.



E-reserves

Your professor may put copies of the readings on e-reserve.



Ask around

A previous student may let you borrow the book. Just ask!

You need to buy the book! What are your options?



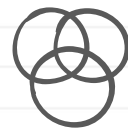
Buy used books

Used books may already have writing in them, but they are cheaper.



Buy an E-Book

As a digital copy, E-books are cheaper.



Rent

You won't have to spend the full amount since you're returning the book.

Purchasing in Perspective

Going for a cheaper version of the books you may need are definitely more cost effective, but they come with some cons.

| | Rent | E-Books | Used |
|------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Pros | You don't need to store it at the end of the term | Sustainable | Cheap |
| Cons | You may not be able to write in the book | It may be difficult to read on a screen for some | The quality may not be the best |

Emailing Professors 101

Use a clear subject line

Step 1

Ex: John Doe -
Question About
Rough Draft

Use a respectful greeting

Step 2

Ex: Dr. / Professor Professors are busy people. Get to the point

Be detailed and clear

Step 3

Use an appropriate salutation

Step 4

Ex: Sincerely, Best,
Thank You



Sample Email

Subject Line: Jessica Smith - Question About Rough Draft

Dear Professor Eldred,

I reviewed the syllabus and it said that our rough draft was due tomorrow, but in class you said you were offering an extension. May you please remind me of the new deadline? Thank you.

Best,

Jessica Smith

Book Buying Resources



Use this list to find online resources with free or cheaper textbooks.

- Amazon.com
- Thriftbooks.com
- CourseSmart
- Open Textbook Library
- OpenSTAX
- Chegg

There are so many more websites. This is just a simple starting place.

Things to keep in mind!

GUIDE Book Money Meetings

GUIDE students can earn \$300 towards 1st and 2nd semester books. Talk to your counselor about this option.

Your professor could be the author

If your professor is the author of the book, ask if they have an extra copy. If not, you may have to settle with buying the book only at the school's bookstore.

Sharing is caring

Talk to your fellow classmates about sharing the book. You can save money and have access to the book. On the downside, you'll have to create a book sharing schedule.

Consider an older edition

Chances are the material is the same and this version is cheaper.

ISBN comparisons

Use the ISBN of your textbook to compare prices online.

Avoid the bookstore!

The bookstore tends to overcharge due to convenience.

Things to keep in mind (cont.)

Email Subject Line

Professors teach many classes. It could be helpful to add your course number to the subject line of your email.

Reading style

Learn what your reading style is. If you need paper, maybe a digital copy is not for you. Keep this in mind when shopping for books.

Renting a book

You could be charged additional costs if you return a rented book late. Please keep this in mind if this is the path you choose to take.

Access codes

Some classes may require access codes. If that is the case, you have no choice but to purchase the book with the access code because they are not reusable between students.

Good Luck!

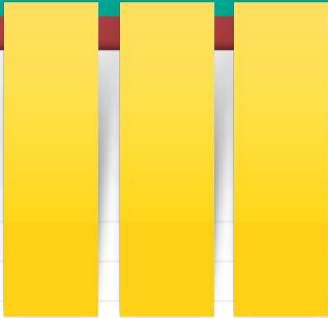
Do you have any
questions?

smithj@vsac.org

Grad Year 2021:

Text (802)232-3538

www.vvac.org/guide



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