

How to Save Money When Buying College Textbooks

- The rising price of textbooks has prompted me to prepare this handout. There are ways to make the cost less and so I have decided to provide some tips.
- Before you do anything else, determine the ISBN of the textbook, the title, and the edition number.
- Also be aware of any additional materials that might be packaged with the book.

Tips

Tip #1: **Contact the instructor** and determine whether a previous edition of the text might be appropriate. If yes, you can usually save between 40-80% off the newest edition. This option is a 'save at the front' choice. It may not be possible to resell, unless another student is savvy about this option.

Tip #2: **EvCC Bookstore Rental.** Rentals are always less expensive, FYI: The EvCC bookstore is a **Barnes and Noble** store.

Tip #3: **EvCC Bookstore Used Books.** Buy your textbook as a used book from the EvCC Bookstore. Be sure to sell your book back at the end of the quarter; rarely should you keep a book used in a lower division course. If you really “love” the book, wait 3 years and rebuy for much less.

Tip #4: **Buy from Publisher (New).** Research the book publisher site. They often rent books.

Tip #5: **Buy from Publisher (eBook).** These ebooks are often less expensive.

Tip #6: **Buy Online Elsewhere.** Rent/buy your book (used or new) using several websites: Here are a few, but there are many available: <http://www.addall.com>, or <http://www.amazon.com>, or <http://www.bookfinder4u.com>.

Be aware that you need to have sufficient time if you plan to order this way and if you drop the class, you will have to wait until the end of the quarter to get your money back (assuming that the book buyback wants your book).

Tip #7: **Buy your Book from A Fellow Student.** You can often offer more than the sell-back costs, but much less than a vendor will offer.

Tip #8: **Borrow** a book from a friend.

Tip #9: **Share** a book with a friend.

Tip #10: **Ask your Instructor** if they placed a copy of the text to the EvCC Library Front Desk Reserve. While you can't check the book out of the library, you can schedule time there to read the book. This is a very effective use of your time.