



Here to help you succeed

Having the materials specified by your professors is crucial to your academic success; *textbooks are as much of an investment in your education as tuition!*

But textbooks can be expensive, and the process of buying them can be intimidating, especially for new college students.

The Cornell Store is dedicated to making your textbook buying process easier, and we're continually seeking ways to lower your costs. Here are a few tips that can help you save time and money when purchasing textbooks:

Tip #1: Print your booklist **before** coming to the Store.

Booklists for courses are typically posted two weeks before the start of a semester. Go to **www.store.cornell.edu** to print your booklist and you won't have to wait in our kiosk lines. Shop before 11:30 a.m. and after 2:30 p.m. and you'll also avoid our busiest hours.

Textbook Tips What You Need to Know to Save Time & Money

Tip #2: Buy **used** books to save money.

Used books cost approximately 25% less than new books...and we have over 40,000 of them in stock! In fact, used books comprise over 30% of our entire inventory. And, because these books are onsite, you can personally inspect them before buying.

Fact: Over 60% of the titles required by Cornell faculty cost \$24 or less!

Tip #3: Consider attending class **before** buying your books.

Learn how and when the books will be used, so you can determine if you need to buy all titles, or just some. The upside is you won't purchase unneeded materials; the downside is used copies of popular titles may no longer be available.

Tip #4: Follow the **book return** rules to recoup your costs.

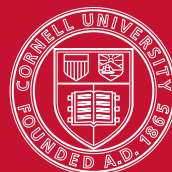
Save your sales receipt! Returns of books and Course Packs in their original condition are accepted for one week from the date of purchase when accompanied by an original receipt. Textbooks for dropped courses may be returned within three days of the drop date if you provide a drop slip.

Tip #5: Participate in our lucrative **textbook buyback** program.

We paid out over \$1,100,000 to Cornell students last year to buy back textbooks! Provide your Cornell ID or Net ID when you make your purchase, and we'll e-mail you the buyback prices for your books at the end of each semester. We pay up to 50% of the new book price on titles adopted for the following semester, even if you purchased the book used.

The Cornell Store

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(607) 255-4111
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Cornell University

FAQs About Textbooks

Q: How are textbook prices determined?

A: Publishers are responsible for most of the costs associated with textbooks. There is no such thing as a “list” price for textbooks. Publishers sell to The Cornell Store at a wholesale price, and we set a retail price that allows enough margin to cover our costs for shipping charges, collating the books on the shelves, salaries, utilities, etc.

Q: What is The Cornell Store doing to address the issue of the high cost of textbooks?

A: Textbook costs are an issue for students at every university across the country. The Cornell Store shares your concerns regarding textbook prices and we work diligently to find innovative ways to help manage your overall investment. Our strategies include:

- Making more used books available;
- Consulting with faculty to help them understand the prices of the materials they’re considering;
- Helping faculty produce custom Course Packs, which are cheaper than having to buy all the individual books from which just a few chapters might be used;
- Making Textbook Buyback days more convenient and worthwhile for students;
- Expanding our selection of digital titles, or eBooks, which are typically even cheaper than used copies.

Q: Why is ordering my textbooks from an online retailer risky?

A: We generally advise against using online and other non-Cornell sources for several reasons. First, your shipment could be delayed, which could cause you to fall behind as the semester begins. Second, you can’t be sure until your shipment arrives that the textbooks you’ve purchased online are the exact editions specified by your instructors. Finally, the “lower” price you might pay online doesn’t factor in the added costs of sales tax, shipping and handling, or the hassle of returning a book purchased online.

Q: Do I have to get all my textbooks now, or can I buy some later in the semester?

A: Many textbooks are kept in stock only until the week before fall or spring break. We maintain an inventory of titles that we know faculty will be using later in the semester, but this is not fail-safe. Although we can order any materials you may need, it’s best to complete your purchases before the books leave the store.

Q: Do I need to buy ALL book titles listed for my courses?

A: Not necessarily. Check your online booklist and the tags on the textbook shelves to distinguish between titles that are required and those that are listed as optional. A careful review of the course syllabus can also help you determine the extent of the reading assigned or when a book will be used during the course. Some syllabi are available online prior to the first class, either through Blackboard or through course websites maintained on separate sites.

Q: How does the “Textbook Buyback” program work?

A: Buying textbooks back from students helps us to keep a robust selection of used books in stock, and enables us to pay students 50% of a book’s new price if the text will be required by a Cornell course the following semester. Textbook Buyback runs for two weeks at the end of each semester at four to five convenient locations on campus, including many final exam locations. We also buy back textbooks at other times of the year, but the best prices are paid at the end of each semester. Watch for more Buyback Tips to come later in the semester.

Best Way to Pay? The CornellCard!

Sign up for CornellCard in-store, online, or at the Bursar’s office and your ID can function as a charge account.

Bills for purchases made on the card at any of 25 campus locations will be sent with your tuition statements.

Other acceptable forms of payment are cash, credit card, personal check, or traveler’s check.

