

## 18 Ways to Get Cheap College Textbooks by Abby Lyons

College begins in just a few more weeks! These first few weeks can really put a dent in your wallet. There are things to buy for your dorm or apartment, parking passes, and school fees. One of the biggest expenses is buying textbooks. If you look for these books at your campus bookstore, you will easily have to drop major cash. However, there are plenty of other websites and strategies that you can look into that will help you get all of your books without breaking the bank.

Keep reading... your wallet will thank you.

Before you begin you will need to know the *title* of the books you need, as well as the *author names* and the *edition* of the book. With used books, prices can vary greatly depending on the condition of the book. It's important to check the *edition number*. Many books have multiple editions. This could create problems for homework assignments, lessons, and more if you get the wrong edition.

### **BUY THEM CHEAP**

#### **Ebay.com**

- \* *You will be able to find new and used textbooks by bidding on auctions or using the Buy It Now option. The drawback is that if you do an auction, this possibly means longer shipping times. The amount you save depends on the seller pricing. So the sooner you do your book search the better.*

#### **AbeBooks.com**

- \* *This site sells both new and used textbooks. Some of them even have free shipping. They guarantee savings of 50-90%. Also helpful is their explanation of what an ISBN is for those first-time online book buyers.*

#### **Better World Books**

- \* *Better World Books accepts used book donations to eliminate trash and resells them at a discount. For every book you buy, they donate a book to someone in need. They also offer literacy grants.*

#### **Rakuten.com**

- \* *You can search for textbooks by free shipping, price range, genre, subject, and publisher.*

#### **Textbooks.com**

- \* *This site has new and used cheap textbooks. You can also get free shipping on orders over \$25. No shipping is needed if you buy something from their eBook catalog. They accept 30 day returns, which is a great option if you decide to drop a class.*

## **BUY OR RENT CHEAP**

### **Amazon.com**

- \* *Their motto for cheap college textbooks is Rent. Buy. Sell. They offer up to 90% savings for most textbooks. If you own a Kindle, some texts are available as eBooks. For hard copies, you can choose free 2-day shipping if you sign up for Prime Student, which is 50% off regular Prime.*

### **Barnes and Noble**

- \* *While they don't sell many textbooks in their store, their website sells just about every textbook. They also offer textbook rentals and they have a buyback program. They advertise that you can save 90% off the cover price on textbooks, and offer free shipping on orders of \$25.*

### **CheapTextBooks.com**

- \* *A website where you can buy, sell, and rent textbooks. If you prefer to save your sales proceeds for credit towards future purchases, this site lets you sell your books for cash or credit.*

### **Chegg.com (Abby's recommendation)**

- \* *This is a popular site that offers up to 90% off textbook prices if you do buy from them. They also offer eBooks and a huge rental program. Additionally, if you need some help with studying, you can ask a question or find an online tutor (it's free for 30 minutes and then you have to pay 50 cents a minute).*

### **ecampus**

- \* *This website has quite a few options and offers. You can buy cheap books or ebooks. If you want to rent, they offer different prices for semesters, quarters, and shorter amounts of time. Shipping can be free both ways if your books costs more than \$59. If you sign up for their eWards, you get \$1 for every 3 points you earn, and you get discount codes for like \$5 off your first order. This discounts add up if you continue to use them and earn points.*

### **Knetbooks**

- \* *Knetbooks offers only rentals and promises up to 85% off regular pricing. Shipping is free both ways, and you can sign up for text message updates to track shipping and get due date reminders. You can extend your due date if needed and you can occasionally get discount codes.*

## **BORROW**

If you need a book for only a short period of time, check out the campus library. They sometimes have textbooks on reserve that you can use. They may also offer eBooks in Overdrive.

## **COMPARE PRICES**

### **Allbookstores.com**

- \* *Allbookstores searches three dozen online book stores for the lowest prices in buying and renting textbooks. You can also sell your college books here.*

### **DealOz.com**

- \* *This site compares textbook prices across 200 online bookstores. You can search, buy, rent, and sell your own books. They offer 97% savings and a free coupon search. You can create an account for double cash back and \$5 DealOz rewards.*

## **BIGWORDS**

- \* *Compares textbook prices across online stores and promises 35-45% cheaper textbooks than other sites.*

### **SlugBooks.com**

- \* *You can search for textbooks and also compare prices between Amazon, Chegg, Textbooks.com, and other online sellers. They also offer a unique feature that permits sellers to post their books for sale on a separate page via Facebook. So if you're looking for a more social media orientated site, this would be the one for you.*

## **SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIPS**

### **Scribd.com**

- \* *This offers more than just cheap college textbooks. It has eBooks, audio books, magazines, news, sheet music, articles, and other documents.*

### **Perlego.com**

- \* *Offers unlimited access to their eBook catalog. They offer a free 14-day trial for students. The app allows highlighting, bookmarking, and annotating. However, you can't read anything offline.*

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