

Textbook Tips for WCU Students

It is critical to your academic success that you have the required textbooks (and other required reading books) for your courses. If you are having difficulty purchasing textbooks due to financial reasons, you may want to consider some of the following options that might be more affordable:

- **First---Start with the SSI Campus Bookstore in Sykes Student Union**

The SSI Campus Bookstore offers the most accurate book inventory at a low price. The bookstore has a huge selection of used textbooks and large rental selections in addition to digital (e-books) options, new course bundles when required, access codes, clickers, custom publications (including course packs that are not available at any on-line provider) and required software. This store has a “student favored” return policy and accepts financial aid book vouchers along with other forms of traditional payment. Visit the SSI Campus Bookstore in the lower level of Sykes Union or at their Web site www.click2ssi-bookstore.com or call 610-436-2665 for personal customer service.

- **Explore On-Line Textbook Purchase/Rental Sites**

There are many Web sites that rent/sell both digital and hard cover textbooks. To ensure accuracy of your purchase it is recommended that you use the **ISBN code** for your textbook that is listed in the SSI Bookstore and/or on your class syllabus. The following are some Web sites you may want to explore:

- Textbooksrus.com

Buy, rent or sell textbooks; free shipping with orders over \$25

- Bigwords.com

Compares a number of textbook stores at once; provides options to other sites

- Half.com (an E-Bay company)

Textbook superstore; buy, rent, or sell textbooks

- Cheapesttextbooks.com

- Click "Go" after you type in the textbook; you will need the title, author, a keyword, or ISBN code in the search box.
- Click "Find the Cheapest Price" once you've located the textbook (Note: It may take up to 20 seconds to retrieve results)
- Click "Buy Now" or "Rent Now" to purchase textbook

- Alibris.com
 - Buy, rent or sell new/used and hard cover/digital textbooks.

- **Check at the Frances Harvey Green Library**
 - Is the course textbook on reserve in the Francis Harvey Green Library? If so, you would have access to the textbook in the library. The book would not be available for any long-term check out.

- **Talk With Your Professor**
 - Ask if any older editions of the textbook might be available to borrow. Sometimes a professor may have an extra older version of the textbook and might be willing to lend it out.
 - If the textbook is not on reserve in the Francis Harvey Green Library, you might want to inquire if there is a copy of the book available to be put on reserve in the library.

- **Connect With Your Friends**
 - Is anyone in your class (or students in your residence hall/apartment complex/student organization who are taking the same course) willing to co-purchase/share a textbook with you? This option requires careful coordination and a clear understanding of how this sharing arrangement would work; a signed written agreement ahead of time might be helpful to avoid any problems.
 - If you are taking a course next semester, are there any students you know now who are in that course that might be willing to sell you their textbook after they finish the semester? You would most likely offer them more money than they would receive in any buy-back.

- **Try These Ideas**
 - Check with your local public library to see if they might have the textbook available for check-out.
 - If you are receiving a refund from Financial Aid, consider putting some of that money aside to rent/buy textbooks.
 - Check out available WCU scholarships that might help off-set your expenses; visit the Web site at: www.wcupa.edu/giving/scholarships/search.asp