

Summary of Textbook Opinion Survey Results

May 2022

Textbook Section Intro

Your feedback about textbook costs will guide us in looking for ways to balance the use of quality instructional materials in the classroom with student preferences and budgets.

Responses

Q1. Has the high cost of course materials ever resulted in: (Check all that apply)

Response options	Number of responses
Deciding not to enroll in a class because course materials cost too much	35
Choosing one class section over another due to textbook/course materials costs	45
Taking fewer classes because the course materials cost too much	52
Dropping a class because the course materials cost too much	23
Not purchasing required course materials because they cost too much	68
Your grade was negatively impacted by not having the required course materials	37
None of the above	77
Other	17

Q2. This semester, were you able to afford all the books you needed within the first 3 weeks of class?

Response options	Number of responses
Yes	148
No	40

Q3. Which of the following methods do you use to lower your textbooks costs? (Check all that apply)

Response options	Number of responses
Buy used textbooks	121
Rent a physical textbook	71
Rent an online textbook	60
Choose classes with free or no textbook (ZTC)	66
Look for lower prices online through Amazon and other booksellers	98
Share books with someone else	39
Apply for a book voucher (through Basecamp HQ or other programs)	75
Use library reserve textbooks in the Library	21
Use library reserve textbooks that can be checked out for the semester	13
Don't buy the book and do your best without it	36
I have not ever tried to lower my textbook costs	6
Other	9

Q4. Assume that cost is no factor. What textbook format do you prefer?

Response options	Number of responses
Print	121
Digital/online/ebook	38
It depends	21
No preference	8

Q4a. Why do you prefer your textbooks in a print format? (Check all that apply)

Note: This question was only presented to students who preferred print in question 4 (Q4).

Response options	Number of responses
Print textbooks are more convenient to read	95
I like to have a printed copy to write in and highlight	73
I find it easier to understand what I am reading in a print copy of a textbook	77
I find it easier to focus on my reading using a print textbook	89
I do not have access to the technology and/or an adequate internet connection to take advantage of digital textbooks	5
Other	10

Q4b. Why do you prefer your textbooks in a digital/ebook format? (Check all that apply)

Note: This question was only presented to students who preferred digital/online/ebooks in question 4 (Q4).

Response options	Number of responses
Digital/ebook textbooks are more convenient to read	23
I like the highlighting and note-taking features in my reading software	16
I find it easier to understand what I am reading in a digital copy of a textbook	10
I find it easier to focus on my reading using a digital textbook	4
I like that digital textbooks are searchable	22
Other	9

Q4c. Please explain why you answered "it depends." (optional question)

Note: This question was only presented to students who answered "it depends" in question 4 (Q4).

Summary of responses: In general, students preferred one format over another depending on the course subject (e.g. they might want a print book for a science class but an ebook for English) and whether the class was online or in person (will they need it in an in-person class, will they need to carry it around, etc.)

Q5. Which methods do you use to access your digital/online textbooks? (Check all that apply)

Response options	Number of responses
Phone	63
Tablet	26
Laptop or desktop computer	151
I don't use digital/online textbooks	25
Other	3

Q6. How have you found out if a class has free course materials? (Check all that apply)

Response options	Number of responses
Classmate or friend	33
Online schedule	49
Counselor	25
Instructor announcement	96
Class Syllabus	98
Zero Textbook Cost Class List	34
Campus Bookstore	18
Library	11
Textbook EdTALK (COS online workshop)	9
I didn't know classes ever had free course materials	29
Other	5

Q7. If all classes used free course materials, how would you spend the money you saved?

Summary of responses: More than 60% of students said that they would spend the extra money on basic needs such as food, gas, rent, and bills. Many others said that they would use the extra money for other college expenses such as supplies or tuition. Some students said that they would use at least some of the funds to save for their future, to purchase new technology such as a laptop, to relax and recreate, or to spend on other family members such as their kids.

Q8. What is the most money you expect to pay for textbooks and other required materials (calculators, goggles, supplies, etc.) for a class that is marked as "low cost"?

Response options	Number of responses
\$20 or less	21
\$30 or less	21
\$40 or less	22
\$50 or less	46
\$60 or less	12
\$75 or less	14
\$100 or less	52

Q9. If the College has the financial resources to help reduce your textbook costs (if a free textbook option is not available), what methods would help you the most? (Check all that apply)

Response options	Number of responses
Book vouchers to buy print textbooks	133
Textbooks in the Library that can be checked out for free all semester	104
Library ebooks that can be used for free online	96
Other	11

Q10. What is your ethnicity and/or race? (Choose all that apply)

Response options	Number of responses
African American/Black	12
Asian/Asian American	8
Filipino/a	0

Response options	Number of responses
Latino/a/x / Chicano/a/x	32
Middle Eastern	1
Native American / Alaskan Native	24
Pacific Islander / Native Hawaiian	2
White	125
Prefer not to state	13
Other	7