Textbook Affordability: What Are Students Saying?

Survey Audience: 21,400 students from all of Florida’s public higher education institutions

21,400 STUDENTS SURVEYED

TEXTBOOK COSTS TO STUDENTS

How much are students spending on textbooks?

- **2016**: 45% under $300, 35% $301-500, 18% over $500
- **2018**: 56% under $300, 30% $301-500, 14% over $500

Textbook costs decreased in 2018 survey

How are they dealing with the costs?*

- **Buy books from a source other than the campus bookstore**: 66% in 2016, 53% in 2018
- **Rent digital textbooks**: 48% in 2018
- **Rent printed textbooks**: 41% in 2018

Does financial aid help?

- Only 23% of respondents said financial aid covered ALL their textbooks.

Office of Distance Learning & Student Services

www.dlss.flvc.org
IMPACT OF TEXTBOOK COSTS ON STUDENT PROGRESS
The high cost of textbooks is negatively impacting students’ academic progress.

How are they coping?*

- 64% Don’t buy required books
- 43% Take fewer courses
- 41% Don’t register for a course
- 23% Drop a course

How are these choices impacting their learning?

- 36% Earn a poor grade
- 20% Fail a course

Are all required books used at some point in an academic career?

- 3.6 required textbooks

Who spends more on books and materials, college or university students?

- College: 44% spent over $300 on textbooks
- University: 44% spent over $300 on textbooks

- College: 11% spent over $300 on additional materials
- University: 9% spent over $300 on additional materials

Notes

* More than one answer may apply.
Source: 2018 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey Results and Findings. To view the full report, visit www.dlss.flvc.org.