Textbook Affordability: What Are Students Saying?

Survey Audience: 22,000 students from all of Florida’s public higher education institutions

Textbook Costs to Students

How much are students spending on textbooks?

- 45% UNDER $300
- 35% $301-500
- 18% OVER $500
- 2% Other

How are they dealing with the costs?*

- 64% Buy books from a source other than the campus bookstore
- 49% Buy used copies from the campus bookstore
- 47% Rent printed textbooks
- 30% Rent digital textbooks

Does financial aid help?

Only 21% of respondents said financial aid covered ALL their textbooks.
How are they coping?

- 67% Don’t buy required books
- 48% Take fewer courses
- 46% Don’t register for a course
- 26% Drop course
- 21% Withdraw from course

How are these choices impacting their learning?

- 38% Earn a poor grade
- 20% Fail a course

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

- 2.6 required textbooks
- average number purchased but NEVER used

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

- College: 56%
- University: 51%

- College: 11%
- University: 9%

**Notes**

* More than one answer may apply.

Source: 2016 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey Results and Findings. To view the full report, visit www.dlss.fvcc.org. 11/18/2016