DadisLearning.com - How to save as much as 50% on textbooks:

Step 1 – DO NOT buy your textbooks (even used ones) at the on-campus bookstore, until you shop around online.

(Special exception: There will occasionally be a special package of materials or a collection of 'copies' your professor has put together. These items are the only things you should ever buy at the on campus bookstore.)

Step 2 – Using your course syllabus, or by going to the bookstore, get the ISBN number of the textbook you need for class. Make sure you note the title of the book, the edition number and the author if there is one. You might even consider taking a photo of the book.

Step 3 – Using the information you have gathered, explore options on the internet.

Amazon.com – Amazon offers a free Prime account to students with a .edu email address. The Prime account gets you free 2-day shipping on any item, and \$3.99 per item next day shipping. Go to http://www.amazon.com/gp/student/signup/info to sign up. From there, simply type in the numerical part of the ISBN number to search for your text book. I recommend staying away from the lowball offers that you see in the results and buying only from Amazon, so you can return the book for free if needed.

Chegg.com – Another great site is www.chegg.com. You don't need a .edu email address to use Chegg. Simply search for your book by ISBN. Then choose whether you want to rent the book or buy it. Prices will probably be 50% less than the bookstore. You can highlight, make notes, etc. in rented books.

Other options: Some textbooks have digital versions for Kindle and other e-readers. This is something you can pursue at significant savings.

Step 4 – Bask in the glory of the money you have saved!

For more info: For more info: http://www.dadislearning.com/2013/05/06/college-textbook-savings/

Real world example:

My sister is working on her PhD and shared her book buying experience for the semester:

Two texts required for class:

\$224.50

Full Price Shopping Around

Book A - \$ 47.50 Book A - \$19.25 (rented from bookstore)

Book B - \$177.00 Book B - \$56.50 (rented from Chegg.com)

\$75.75 (savings of \$148.75 or 66%)