



College textbooks are expensive! So what's new? Textbooks costs have burdened college students for decades. What's new are the many options that now exist to acquiring them. Here in **The Student Achievement Center, Early Alert Specialists** meet frequently with students during the initial weeks of the semester to help them sort through their options and to find resources to make college textbooks more affordable.

IMPORTANT: It is critical for college success that students start the semester with their college textbooks. To delay the purchase of critical textbooks can be a recipe for disaster as students get further and further behind by not attending class prepared having done the readings or homework.

How to sort through the options:

The First Step is knowledge of which books to purchase. The NKU campus bookstore maintains a website where students can find exactly which textbooks faculty are requiring for specific sections. Students have the option of purchasing all of their textbooks through the NKU Campus Bookstore. Keep in mind that faculty will go over the textbook requirements during the first week of classes. Any specific questions should be directed to them. Textbooks purchased unnecessarily may be returned at cost for a limited time in the beginning of the semester provided they remain in pristine condition.

The Second Step is price comparison. Textbooks are available through multiple sources, both brick and mortar stores and online. Clearinghouse websites function for textbooks like Hotels.com functions for room rates. Students see an array of vendors and prices and can choose the lowest price.

The Third Step is knowing the alternatives.

- **Used textbooks:** They can also offer significant savings, although, it is important to pay attention to the edition number. Consult with the individual faculty before purchasing an older edition!
- **Rentals:** A recent trend in textbook sales, companies, including the NKU campus bookstore, offer students this cost-cutting option with the option to purchase.
- **eBooks:** Increasingly textbook companies are offering online versions of traditional textbooks. Access codes to these books are purchased often with an expiration date.

