

Money-Saving Tip for College Students: College Text Books: Shop Around, Save Money

Every college class will have one or more required text books associated with a course curriculum.

And depending upon the needs of the student, the decisions made in the college bookstore can save students hundreds of dollars over the course of a college career.

The following example is an actual book that is required for a course in Web Design. This college bookstore offers students the following options for acquisition:

College Bookstore: Book Rental (180 days):	\$ 47.85
College Bookstore: Book Purchase: Used:	\$ 73.25*
College Bookstore: Book Purchase: New:	\$ 97.65*
Nook: Rental (180 days): eTextbook:	\$ 47.00

**No information available for college bookstore trade-in value at the end of the semester.*

The same book can be found over the internet by typing the books ISBN number into a web search. Here are just two of the many vendor options found for this book:

BookRenter.com: Book Rental (125 days):	\$ 38.86
Amazon.com: Book Purchase: Used	\$ 51.35
Amazon.com: Book Purchase: New	\$ 65.00

It should be stated that the prices outlined here do not demonstrate a clear choice for acquisition. And while the acquisition price for the book in this example is within \$60.00, the price difference between many books for upper level courses can be over \$150.00 per book.

In the end, student needs and preferences will ultimately dictate the correct choice. While some students prefer eBooks for the convenience of portability; other students prefer to turn pages in a paper book. A student may choose to keep books from some classes but choose to trade in books from other classes. And for the cost-sensitive student, the lowest priced option may always be preferred.

Regardless of the need or preference, it clearly pays to plan ahead, shop around and know your options before you buy.