

Buy and Trade College Textbooks on the Web

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The Mom

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Right about now, college students and parents are looking for just about any way they can save some money on college expenses. Hefty tuition bills have been paid, room and board plunked down, and a list of tech must-haves that didn't exist 20 years ago acquired.



So it's no wonder students are finding ways to save on books, no longer the monopoly of the campus bookstore. A 2005 Government Accounting Office report found that textbook prices nearly tripled from 1986 to the end of 2004. Luckily, the Internet is helping students fight this one rising tide.

These are some of the most widely used sites for discount books sales:

- [Amazon.com](#)
- [Half.com](#) (an eBay site)
- [Ecampus.com](#)
- [Abebooks.com](#)
- [Bigwords.com](#)
- [Campusbooks.com](#)
- [Alibris.com](#)
- [Bookbyte.com](#)

But there are some other options, as well. [Textbookrevolution.org](#) is a student-run web site which posts textbooks, lecture notes, and other undergraduate educational materials in e-book and PDF file form. No worries about copyright infringement. The materials on the site have been approved to be there by the copyright owners. Some other similar sites include:

- [Freeloadpress.com](#)
- [Safariu.com](#)
- [Lulu.com](#)

Students also need to check online when they get to campus. Some student governments and student associations offer online book-trading/buying web sites, where students can post books they have and ones they want and then trade with each other or sell.

That's a start. Now let's hear from students and parents about the sites they have had the most success with buying or trading expensive collegiate tomes.

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