



Consumer Tips for Buying Textbooks

Selected by instructors, textbooks provide college students the information they need to do well in their courses. However, many students come to college unprepared for their expense.

The following suggestions can help students make smart decisions when purchasing textbooks.

- 1) Know your store's refund policy, especially the deadlines. This way, you won't be disappointed if you need to bring things back to the store.
- 2) Keep your receipts. Most stores require receipts for course material returns.
- 3) Don't write in your books until you're certain you'll be keeping them. Most stores will not offer full credit for books that have been marked.
- 4) Buy "used" books whenever possible. Working to help students save money, college stores strive to provide as many used textbooks as possible.
- 5) Be cautious when making educational purchases online. The exact items you need may not be available right away causing you to fall behind in your studies. Also, don't forget to calculate shipping expenses into the total cost of the textbook.
- 6) If you have a choice between buying a textbook by itself, or the same text packaged with a study guide or software package, make sure you need *both* parts. Packages can be a great value but are often non-returnable once opened.

About NACS

Headquartered in Oberlin, Ohio, the National Association of College Stores (NACS) is the professional trade association representing the \$11 billion collegiate retailing industry. Members include more than 3,100 institutional, private and leased college stores along with 1,200 suppliers of books and other products to college stores.

Additional information about NACS and college stores is available online at

www.nacs.org.

Revised 05/04