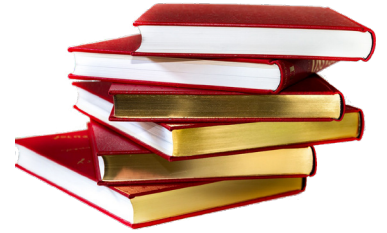


# Textbook Purchasing FAQs



## **Do I need to buy ALL book titles recommended for my courses?**

Not necessarily. Check your online booklist to distinguish between titles that are required and those that are listed as optional. A careful review of the course syllabus can also help you determine the extent of the reading assigned or when a book will be used during the course. Uncertain how substantially a book will be used? Ask your professor or another student who has taken the class.

## **Do I have to get all my textbooks now or can I buy some later in the semester?**

Many textbooks are kept in stock only until the middle of the current semester, except those that we know faculty will be using later in the semester. Although we can order any materials you may need, it's best to complete your purchases early in the semester.

## **What's the best way to pay for my textbooks?**

Your Brown Bookstore Charge Account. All full-time students are automatically set up with a Bookstore Charge. Your Brown ID Card is required when charging at the Bookstore. Bookstore Charge Accounts are set up with a limit of \$2,000 per student, per school year. These charges will be added to your University Account and billed as per standard University policies and procedures. The Brown Card also identifies students, faculty, and staff for exemption from state sales tax in the Brown Bookstore on book and supply purchases intended for academic use. Other acceptable forms of payment are cash, credit card, personal check, or traveler's check.

## **How are the prices of textbooks determined?**

The Brown Bookstore buys books from used book companies, publishers, and other vendors at the lowest prices we can find, and we pass those savings on to you. We set retail prices that allow enough margin to cover our costs to get the books onto the shelves here in the store and provide you with good customer service. The pricing of many of our books is market-based, meaning that we price according to supply and demand in the national market. We wish that all textbooks cost less, but the Brown Bookstore does what it can to lower the price of course materials whenever possible.

## **What is the Brown Bookstore doing to address the issue of the high cost of textbooks?**

We are continually working to find ways to help students manage their investment in course materials. Our efforts include:

- Searching the market for low-priced used books, and passing those savings on to students through lower purchase and rental prices
- Offering an online price comparison tool so students can compare textbook prices from the Brown Bookstore and other online merchants
- Renting textbooks directly from our store
- Offering hundreds of money-saving used books
- Expanding our selection of lower-priced eBooks
- Returning cash to students each year through Textbook Buyback
- Working with faculty on cost-conscious textbook adoption strategies

## **How does the Textbook Buyback program work?**

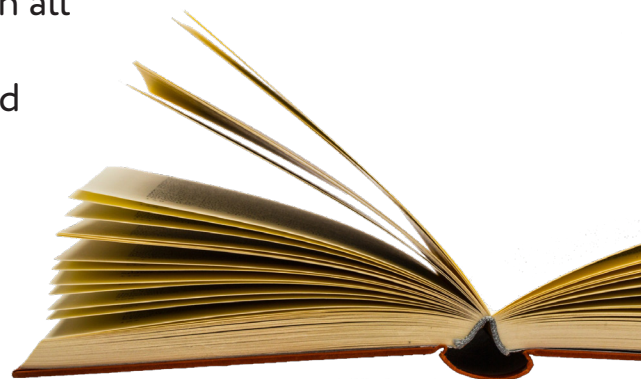
Textbook Buyback runs year-around in-store (the best prices are paid at the end of each semester). Buying textbooks back from students helps us to keep a robust selection of used books in stock and allows us to return cash to students.

## **Can I return my Course Materials?**

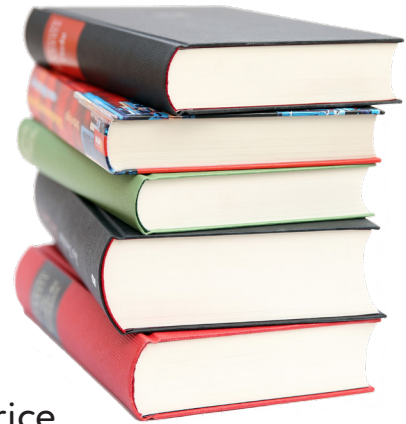
All refunds require the original receipt and will be refunded to the original form of payment. A full refund will be provided for Course Materials returned through the shopping period (the first two weeks of classes). Course Materials purchased after the shopping period must be returned within 2 business days of purchase for a full refund.

Course materials must be in original purchase condition or they will be refunded as used books. Textbook packages must be returned with all components, unused. Access codes and other online materials must be unopened/inactivated and returned by the end of the shopping period.

Course Packets cannot be returned.



# Textbook Rental FAQs



## How does the in-store rental process work?

Use our online textbook price comparison tool to shop online or check our shelves to see if any of your titles are available for rent. Textbooks available for rent have two different prices based on condition, the new rental price and the used rental price. Select the textbook you would like to rent in the desired condition. Review the rental terms and conditions which are available online, or at the checkout counter. If purchasing in-store, you will be required to show your Brown ID prior to your transaction. If a book you brought to the counter is available to rent the cashier will ask you if you would like to rent or purchase the book. Completing the transaction indicates your acceptance of the rental terms. Save your receipt. It will be needed if you want to return your book for a refund during the textbook refund period.

## Why would I want to rent a textbook?

Many students are only interested in using some textbooks for the duration of a class. Renting for a semester typically costs less than half of the new book price. Renting removes the risk of how much the book may be worth at the end of the semester and you can capture the savings up front instead of waiting for Textbook Buyback at the end of the term. If you decide to keep the book, you can purchase it at any time during the rental period for the difference between the new rental fee and the current new selling price or the used rental fee and the current used selling price, based on whether the book was rented in new or used condition at the time of transaction.

## Can I get a refund on a rented book?

Yes, but only during the shopping period (the first two weeks of classes). Refunds for textbooks rented in-store or online from the Brown Bookstore will be treated in the same manner as refunds for purchased textbooks. Our standard course materials return policy will apply. All returns must be in salable condition, in the condition purchased, and be accompanied with the receipt.

## **Can I rent my textbook digitally?**

60% of our textbooks are available digitally. To find out if yours is, look for the “Go Digital” card near your textbook in the store. If you’re searching online, books available for digital download will have a “Digital” price listing near the other purchase and rental options.

## **Why isn’t the book for my class available for rent?**

Unfortunately, not all textbooks qualify for our rental program. There are multiple factors that are considered, from how current the text is to the size of the class, and how consistently the course is offered.

## **Are the rental books used copies or new copies?**

If a book is available for rent, a student can decide to purchase a new rental or used rental based upon availability. There are different costs associated with rentals based on condition.

## **I saw that a used text rental was an option for my class but the Brown Bookstore didn’t have a used rental copy when I got there.**

Rental stock is limited to our on hand quantities of a book. As used copies and used rental copies of books sell out, students will have the option of purchasing new copies or new rental copies of the book. Students who shop early will be the most likely to acquire rental copies in the condition they desire.

## **When do I have to return my rental text to the Brown Bookstore?**

Before the close of business on the last day of scheduled final exams each semester. We will send email notices reminding you of the return deadline, but the responsibility to return is yours.

## **What if I forget to return the book at the end of the semester?**

If at the time of initial purchase you rented a new copy, a fee equal to the difference between the amount paid for the new rental and the current cost of a new copy will be charged to your Brown Bookstore Charge Account. If at the time of initial purchase you rented a used copy, a charge equal to the difference between the amount paid for the used rental and the current cost of a used copy will be charged to your Brown Bookstore Charge Account.

At the time of initial purchase you will be asked to present a credit card for security purposes. If you have surpassed your Brown Bookstore Charge Account limit of \$2000, the fee will instead be charged to your credit card.



### **Can I turn in my rental book when I return for the following semester?**

No. The charge to your bursar account will stand. We may be able to purchase your copy at the current buyback price.

### **Can I use a highlighter in my rental text?**

Books must be returned in salable condition as determined by store staff. Minimal highlighting and marking is allowed. Books with damage to the spine, torn covers, missing pages, or any water damage will not be accepted.

### **What if my book was lost, stolen, or damaged beyond normal wear?**

There are several options. You can acquire another copy of the book and return it at the end of the rental period. You can come to the store and pay the difference between the rental and replacement costs and avoid the handling fee. You can do nothing and allow your bursar account to be charged.

### **I need the textbook for a continuation class. Can I rent it for multiple semesters?**

If you are taking a continuation course, purchasing a new or used book is usually the best option. Although you are free to rent (and return) a textbook multiple times, the cost of renting a book for two semesters is generally higher than purchasing the book once.

### **Is it a better deal to rent a book or to purchase it and then sell it back at Textbook Buyback?**

Renting provides a lower up-front cost. In some cases, it can be less expensive to buy a used text (when available) and sell it at buyback. There is always the chance that the text won't be bought back if a newer edition is published or if the professor switches to a different book, so renting ensures some cost savings.

### **Can someone else return my books for me?**

Yes. As long as they know your Brown ID, your rental items will be cleared from your account. It is recommended that you return your own books.

