

# textbook FAQs

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

Publishers are responsible for most of the costs associated with textbooks. There is no such thing as a “list” price for textbooks. Publishers sell to The Cornell Store at a wholesale price and we set a retail price that allows enough margin to cover our costs to ship and collate the books and help defray other store operation expenses.

## **Q** What is The Cornell Store 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:

- Offering tens of thousands of money-saving used books;
- Expanding our selection of lower-priced eBooks;
- Returning over \$1 million in cash to students each year through Textbook Buyback;
- Educating faculty on cost-conscious textbook adoption strategies;
- Helping faculty produce custom CoursePacks that consolidate academic materials from multiple sources into one more cost-effective product.

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

Textbook Buyback runs for two weeks at the end of each semester at four to five convenient locations on campus, including in the Store and at many final exam sites (we also buy back textbooks at other times of the year, but the best prices are paid at the end of each semester). We pay up to 50% of the new book price on titles adopted for the following semester, even if you purchased the book used or from another source. Buying textbooks back from students helps us to keep a robust selection of used books in stock and lets us to return cash to students.

## **Q** 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 week before fall or spring break, 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 before the books leave the store.

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

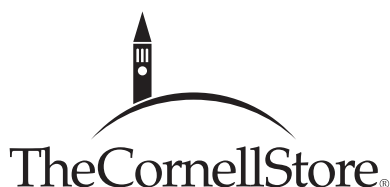
Not necessarily. Check your online booklist and the tags on the textbook shelves to distinguish between titles that are required and those that are listed as optional. A careful review of the course syllabus can also help you determine the extent of the reading assigned or when a book will be used during the course.

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

The CornellCard. You can sign up for CornellCard in-store, online, or at the Bursar's office so that your ID can function as a charge account. Bills for purchases made on the card at any of 25 campus locations will be sent with your tuition statements. Other acceptable forms of payment are cash, credit card, personal check, or traveler's check.

## **Q** Why is ordering my textbooks from an online retailer risky?

Shipment delays could cause you to fall behind as the semester begins; you may not receive the exact editions specified by your instructors; and potentially lower online prices are often negated by sales tax and shipping and handling charges. Making an exchange or return on an online purchase can also be a hassle.



*Here to help you succeed*