MCC Bookstore Textbooks 101

We’ll admit it – making the transition to college can be overwhelming. There’s a lot to do, a lot to keep organized, and a lot of things to shop for. Some of the most important things (at least we think so!) are, of course, your textbooks! We know that it’s easy to feel intimidated by the textbook-buying process, but we’re here to show you that it doesn’t have to be difficult at all.

First things first – how do you find out which textbooks you need?

This part is simple! Once you have your course schedule set, just head on over to MCC Bookstore website. Under the Textbooks tab select your campus. There are two ways to search for your textbooks. If you already have the book’s isbn, you may enter it here and search for that book.

The second way is using your course schedule.
Once you’ve clicked Get Course Materials, the Textbook Wizard will pull in a list of the materials you need for each class (we told you, it’s simple)!

Most materials are listed as a single Required item. However, there are two other terms that many students have questions about: Required, Bundle Option, and Alternative.

So, what’s the difference?

Required – the professor has adopted the book(s) and/or access code(s) for this course

Bundle Option – this is comprised of more than one item. For example, it is the book and an access code.

Alternative – this is usually a loose-leaf print of the required textbook. (If this is part of a bundle option, you do not need to purchase this)

If you’re purchasing a required book and/or access code, you don’t also need to purchase the bundle option – it’s taken care of!
Let’s talk format.

When it comes to ordering your textbooks, there are a few different formatting options you can choose from. Two of the most common variations are New and Used. Often, used textbooks were sold back to the bookstore at the end of the previous semester by another student. Used textbooks usually cost less than their newer counterparts and they are – almost always – still in good condition.

The last formatting option available is Digital. You can select digital content the same way you would a hard copy.
Now that we’ve talked through New, Used, and Digital textbooks, let’s move on to **Renting vs. Buying**!

**The eternal question: should you rent or buy?**

The next piece of the puzzle revolves around whether you’d like to keep your textbooks permanently. When you rent a textbook, you order it at the beginning of the term and then return it once finals are over. Because you are not keeping the book indefinitely, rentals cost less than a regular purchase. You can choose to rent a digital book as well!

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**RENT OR BUY?**

This quick guide will show you which textbook format is best for you.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>RENT</strong></th>
<th><strong>BUY</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I want cash in my pocket now (save big on rentals)!</td>
<td>I want cash back at the end of term after selling my books back.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I have access to a credit card.</td>
<td>I don’t have access to a credit card.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I won’t need the same textbook next term.</td>
<td>I will need the same textbook next term.</td>
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Just like when you buy a textbook, you can also choose to rent both new or used varieties. The best way to save money? Choose to **Rent Used** textbooks. Simply return them to the bookstore at the end of the term! If you’re concerned about forgetting to return a rental, don’t sweat it. The bookstore will send you email reminders when the due date draws near!