

Desperate for discounts

Story and photo by Shaylyn Struna

Being a college student can be tough, whether you're a full-time student living at home or living on your own trying to hold down a job. On top of worrying about classes and homework, finances are a big stressor. A full-time student can expect to pay around \$1,000 to \$1,200 per term. And that's just tuition, not the school supplies and textbooks many students end up paying for out of pocket.

There's no need to worry though. You can still save money while being a college student. Here are a few ways how to do that.

There are many cheaper alternatives to buying books. At Clackamas Community College, the Associated Student Government runs a book exchange. This book exchange opens on Sept. 28 and stays open for two weeks. There is a \$2 contract fee that allows you to sell up to eight textbooks, which is a small price to pay when you're able to save hundreds. When selling textbooks, you choose your own selling price. For buying textbooks, you pay in

cash. According to ASG member Adrianna Castillo, the most expensive book that's been sold was \$80 but most are between \$10 and \$30.

Other alternatives include renting and buying textbooks online. Of course Amazon is a popular, well-known choice. Amazon offers textbook rentals at a cheaper price than purchasing them. Amazon also provides you with a shipping label to return the book at no extra cost to you.

Chegg and Valore Books are two others that offer rentals and cheaper buying prices. These are also websites that allow you to compare prices to find the best deal for you. These include Textbook Rentals, Big Words and Book Finder. Campus Book Rentals is another great website that offers rentals only with free shipping and return shipping. Many sites offer ebooks as well, which are far cheaper than hardcopies.

As far as school supplies go, there are cheaper options than buying from a campus bookstore.

Staples is a great place with awesome back-to-school deals. Office Depot, Office Max and Walmart all have low prices on back to school items as well. Student and ASG member Adam Crossen said he was able to "buy a \$160 calculator for \$120 because Office Max price matches items sold on Amazon."

Best Buy is offering discounts on MacBooks and select laptops. Microsoft also offers a 10 percent student discount. Even better, Microsoft offers a free download of Microsoft office for select colleges. To snatch up this freebie go to this website; <http://www.microsoft.com/enus/education/students/default.aspx>.

So yes, being a college student can be tough. It's pretty expensive and often is stressful but it also has its perks. Many places offer a student discount; so take advantage of that. While you're out and about, don't be afraid to ask. Many places do not advertise these student discounts but will honor them if you just ask.



New student Amanda Rusch, left, and second-year student Hannah Dugan select their textbooks in the bookstore for fall term.

Student discounts:

Electronics and Software

- Apple - 5 percent
- Microsoft - 10 percent
- Adobe - Up to 60 percent
- Amazon - Half off Amazon Prime
- Sony - 10 percent
- Corel - Special prices
- Lenovo - Up to 25 percent

Franchises

- Chipotle - Free drink
- Subway - 10 percent
- Burger King - 10 percent
- Waffle House - 10 percent
- Arbys - 10 percent
- McDonalds - 10 percent
- Dairy Queen - 10 percent
- Jiffy Lube - 10 percent or \$10 off

Insurance

- State Farm - 25 percent
- All State - 20 percent
- Geico - \$200 off
- Esurance - 15 percent

Phones

- Check with your phone company for student discounts