North Shore Community College OER Survey 2017 Results: 269 students responded to our survey during OER week (March 37-31)

How many classes are you taking this semester?
268 responses

How many textbooks did you buy this semester?
265 responses

How much did you spend on textbooks this semester?
254 responses
If you spent more than $400 this semester on textbooks, please let us know exactly how much you spent.

63 responses

Are you aware that NSCC offers courses that use textbooks or learning materials with no or low cost?

264 responses
Would you take a course that offers a free or cheaper textbook over a course that doesn't?

- Yes: 87.9%
- No: 12.1%

264 responses

Does the cost of the textbook impact which classes and/or how many classes you decide to take?

- Yes: 51.5%
- No: 48.5%

262 responses

Have you ever decided not to buy a course textbook because of the cost?

- Yes: 35.9%
- No: 64.1%

262 responses

If yes, do you think the decision not to buy the textbook affected your grade for the course?

- Yes: 41.5%
- No: 58.5%

188 responses

Do you use course reserves in the Library to access textbooks?

- Yes: 60.8%
- No: 39.2%

260 responses

Would you take a course if you knew you could access the textbooks in the Library over one where you could not?

- Yes: 87.2%
- No: 12.8%

258 responses
Comments
94 students commented on the high price of textbooks
- The price is way too high
- Outrageous, textbook companies are criminals. Free education for all!
- Way overpriced - life is hard enough/expensive.
- Too expensive -- honestly ridiculous. Bookstore doesn't buy back a fair amount.
- Last semester I spend $800 on books. Nursing textbooks are crazy expensive! But we don't get to choose our courses :(
- Books are too expensive - most students have low income
- The cost of textbooks are so expensive. One of the last semesters, I had to spend almost $1,000 on the books. The next semester, the new instructor wanted another set of A&P books again. That would have cost almost $500. So, I just did not take the class.
- It is hard to find enough information on Google for the class and consumes so much time. I hope the professors will agree to use lower cost books or older editions. That would really help us, students, to get education easier. For the reason that to pay for the class tuition and fee is already a challenge and a while of saving up money and live frugality.
- too high of a price for struggling student
- Please make them free or cheap, these are tough times we live in
- The cost of books sometimes affect students because not everybody is able to purchase a book that is expensive.

14 Students commented on having to buy a textbook that was barely used
- if the textbook is not going to be used the we should not have buy them
- textbooks are too expensive and most of the time professors only use it the first days of school
- Sometimes teachers ask for the books and never use them
- It's a pain when a professor says the book is mandatory for 2 chapters or never use it
- High cost can be very discouraging. The worst part is when you buy the book and the prof never uses it. This happens more often than not.
- Textbooks cost way too much & we barely use them.
- The problem is that if the teacher says we need a book and it costs$ 375, we get it and then the teacher doesn't use it. The book is worth only $20 after that
- At times the book that was required is not even used! Or very rarely used.

9 students commented on low buy-back prices
- Wish they would buy them back closer to sale price
- It's a bummer how expensive textbooks are. It wouldn't be too bad if you could sell them for a reasonable price, but even when all are in good condition, you only get such a small amount for them.
- Stop using NSCC only editions of books - they are outdated and unsellable

14 Students commented on the need for alternatives to buying textbooks
- They should be cheaper alternatives available that students should know more about, Like different ways on buying the books cheaper (more information provided)
- Same process as high school - borrow books for the semester
- Can the bookstore price match online rental/purchase prices?

6 students commented on the high cost of access codes
- textbooks are not always the problem of cost, online codes are much more of a problem
- Most classes just need an Access Code. Offer that by itself.
- Too expensive!! Really robbing students, plus access codes being over $100 is ridiculous.

3 students commented on preferring OER
• Generally I would be more inclined to take a class with no textbooks/or cheap textbook than one with an expensive textbook
• The OER courses I take are by far the most enjoyable. I honestly took them for the cost benefit but I don't think I could've chosen a better course.

6 students commented on using Library resources
• I plan to use the course reserves in the library.
• Accessing textbooks online through library would be great.
• Every professor should have their books on reserve in the library for easy access to students.