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2019

What's the real cost of your textbook?

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What's the real cost of your textbook?

LACUNY Dialogues 2019 “Student Voices in CUNY”

Presented by Sharell Walker and Kathryn Anastasi

A Collaborative project by Sharell Walker, Jean Amaral, Kathryn Anastasi, NYPIRG and the BMCC Student Government Association

Zero Textbook Cost Initiative

WANT ZERO TEXTBOOK COSTS?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources released under an open license that permits their free use and repurposing by others. OER can be textbooks, full courses, modules, videos, tests, software, or any other tool, material, or technique that supports access to knowledge



The screenshot shows the CUNYfirst Global Search interface. At the top, it says "CUNYfirst Global Search | Class Schedule". Below that is a "Search for Classes" section with a "Enter Search Criteria" field. There are several dropdown menus for "Subject", "Course Career", "Course Attribute", "Course Attribute Value", and "Requirement Designation". A yellow callout box highlights the "Course Attribute" dropdown, which is set to "ZERO Textbook Cost".

What does that mean for CUNY students?

- You will not have to purchase a textbook for this class
- Day 1 access to FREE digital course materials across all your devices
- Look for Zero Cost degree programs "Z degrees" using OER in the coming year

Search for classes using the "Zero Textbook Course" attribute.

START YOUR SEARCH HERE
globalsearch.cuny.edu

CUNY | **OER**
Open Educational Resources



In celebration of open access week the BMCC Library and NYPIRG ask you...

“What’s the real cost of your textbooks?”

Advocate for more zero textbook courses and open educational resources. Tell the professors about the hardship you face as a result of paying for textbooks.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!



Survey

What My Textbook Truly Cost Me

* Required

First Name and Initial (ex: John S.) *

Your answer

Is the cost of textbooks a burden for you? *

yes

No

Please give examples of how you've been affected by textbook costs? *

Your answer

SUBMIT

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

Flip Board

My textbooks cost
me \$ 800

I could've spent the
\$ on:
My mom's Cancer treatment!

My textbook cost
me \$ 300.⁰⁰

I could've spent the
\$ on:

- Food
- Warm Jacket
- Rent
- Medis
- Cancer treatments

My textbook cost
\$ 200

I could've spent
the \$ on: my sick
Grandmother in Africa

- “My dogs vaccine shots”
- “A trip to see my mom at the hospital in Ohio”
- “Diapers”
- “Emergency Hospital Visit”

Select Responses

- “I saved up for the whole summer to pay for four textbooks and when I finished paying for them, I had no money left. I live in New Jersey so on top of the Metrocard I pay for passes for the Port Authority bus. There are days I don't even eat to save up some money. This is why textbooks should be free.”
- “I am unemployed due to my disability, and I am taking care of young children at the same time. I only receive SSD income of \$522 a month. and my spouse is not supporting my educational costs, so therefore it is very hard for me to spend money on my textbooks. so I would really appreciate if our textbooks were free. Thank you so much for helping out.”

Next Steps

- Website with stories
- Student Testimonial Videos
- SGA and the Academic Senate

Thank You

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