

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OHIO

FAQs on Discounted eTextbooks for Students

FOR STUDENTS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is CourseSmart?

What are eTextbooks?

How do I subscribe to CourseSmart eTextbooks?

How does a CourseSmart eTextbook subscription work?

Can I buy regular print textbooks on CourseSmart?

Why is there more than one ISBN displayed for CourseSmart items?

What is CourseSmart?

CourseSmart is an online marketplace for digital college course materials. It brings together thousands of popular textbooks in electronic format for instructors to sample and students to purchase. As of late August 2008, there were about 4,500 titles from the six largest commercial publishers in the United States with more being added each month.

As a student, it gives you immediate access to the materials your professors assign. CourseSmart is also a great value if you are concerned about the rising cost of college, since digital materials can cost up to 55 percent less than traditional new print textbooks. Access is provided typically for 180 days and for some books 360 days or more.

CourseSmart is supported by a wide variety of major higher education publishers. By providing a common environment and platform for reviewing, buying, and using digital course materials, the marketplace hopes to meet the needs of instructors and students who prefer the flexibility and lower cost of digital textbooks.

What are eTextbooks available through the University System of Ohio and CourseSmart?

CourseSmart eTextbooks are digital versions of print textbooks enhanced with features such as high-speed search and electronic note-taking. CourseSmart eTextbooks come in two versions: online version and downloadable version.

CourseSmart online eTextbooks are viewed through a browser connected to the Internet. What's more, online eTextbooks require no special plug-ins so you don't have to download anything to your computer. Just log in to your CourseSmart account, subscribe to an eTextbook, and start reading.

Course downloadable eTextbooks are downloaded to your computer. These eTextbooks are viewed through a downloaded CourseSmart reader on your computer available free at the CourseSmart site. Your eTextbook is available locally on your computer (you don't need to be on the Internet to use it) for the length of your subscription whether or not you are online.

Every effort is made to make an eTextbook look exactly like its comparable print version, including page numbers and the placement of figures, tables, and images. eTextbooks have the same content as print editions and include a feature that lets you "jump" to a specific page or chapter. You can easily find page numbers referenced in reading or homework assignments or your instructor's syllabus.

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Using <http://textbooks.uso.edu>, students can search CourseSmart and purchase eTextbooks at the lowest price available through the University of Ohio sponsored program. In the future, students will have the opportunity to purchase CourseSmart eTextbooks at campus bookstores that choose to participate in the program. Check with your local campus bookstore.

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When you subscribe to your first CourseSmart eTextbook, you'll be asked to create a unique username and password. Use this information to sign in to the CourseSmart site every time you want to read this eTextbook, or to subscribe to other CourseSmart eTextbooks.

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After your subscription has ended, the online version of the eTextbook will still appear under My eTextbooks on your My CourseSmart page but will be labeled "Expired." Expired downloadable versions of the eTextbooks will remain on your CourseSmart Bookshelf until you purchase another downloadable eTextbook or renew your license. You can always re-subscribe to any expired eTextbook. You can cancel an online subscription to an eTextbook for a full refund within the first two weeks of purchasing your subscription. Downloadable eTextbooks are not refundable. Read Point #10 on CourseSmart terms of service for a full explanation of refund policies [<http://www.coursesmart.com/termservice>].

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FOR FACULTY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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I'm an instructor. Can I have help signing in?

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FOR ADMINISTRATORS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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How do I set up a relationship with CourseSmart through my campus book store?

Ohio institutions, both public and private, are invited and encouraged to provide the CourseSmart option directly to students via their bookstores. CourseSmart will work directly with campus bookstores to integrate CourseSmart into both the physical and online book stores and course registration sites for student purchases. Book Stores will receive a discount from CS of 10 percent off the CourseSmart standard prices through the sponsorship of the Ohio Board of Regents. Bookstores are free to pass this discount on to students by pricing CS eTextbooks at a price equivalent to the University Web site; they also have the latitude to retail the text at whatever price they choose. Bookstores should arrange for direct CourseSmart distribution by contacting Kevin McKiernan, Director of Business Development, kevin.mckiernan@coursesmart.com, (573- 355-1702).

How can my campus bookstore have its inventory appear among the online search results on <http://textbooks.uso.edu>?

Future iterations for the University System of Ohio Textbooks Portal site will include the ability to link to campus bookstores. Please send this information to Peter Murray (peter@OhioLINK.edu) to be included in that capability:

Bookstore name (name of bookstore as you would like it to appear)
Institution (name of the college or university)
Branch (name of the branch campus, if appropriate)
URL to bookstore homepage
URL for title/author keyword searches (if available at e-commerce site)
URL for ISBN searches (if available at e-commerce Web site)

Direct links into inventory systems to display availability and pricing information are also possible; please contact Peter Murray at the e-mail address above for more information.

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