

COLLEGE CORNER

Buying Course Materials: What Students Should Know

(NAPSA)—When students arrive on campus each term, they generally face long “To-Do” lists and short time frames for getting things done. There are classes to register for, schedules to map, advisors and instructors to meet, and perhaps most important, books and course materials to buy.

Purchasing today’s highly sophisticated course materials isn’t just a matter of plucking a textbook from a shelf. Today’s textbooks are more than books—they are comprehensive learning packages equipped for the digital age. Current textbooks incorporate a broad range of valuable tools, including online libraries, 24/7 online tutors, digital self assessment tools, online study guides and Web-based resources.

“The textbook of today is a virtual learning center, integrating technology with content,” says Michael Montaña, associate professor of mathematics at Riverside Community College in Riverside, California. “When you purchase a textbook today, you’re getting much more than just a book, you’re getting an entire learning and teaching program.”

One place students may be able to get good value when purchasing course materials is their college bookstore. And to make it easier to locate the appropriate materials, students should bring their schedules that include the course number, section number and professor’s name.

“The college bookstore is the most trusted source for learning



For college students, the on-campus bookstore offers a one-stop shopping option.

materials,” says Montaña. “It’s specifically designed to meet students’ needs because it’s part of the college community.”

In addition to selling new textbooks, the college bookstore offers students a selection of used copies. Some used textbooks will be unmarked, while others may include notes and highlights that students could find helpful. When buying used textbooks, students should be sure they are getting the right edition, with all the ancillary materials. College bookstores work to make sure that only editions used in current classes are on the shelf.

The college bookstore can be a quick, efficient stop for dropping or adding courses, making exchanges and handling financial aid needs for learning materials—as well as a great source for wardrobe and dorm essentials with their school colors and logos.