

Affordable Materials Project (AMP)

A collaboration between the Office of the Provost, Falvey Library, the Villanova Bookstore, CASA and VITAL



AMP's Mission

To provide faculty with resources and option for selecting high quality course materials while reducing the cost for students. To create student awareness of affordable options for obtaining course materials.

The issue

The average amount a Villanova student spends on required texts every year is **\$940**.¹ From 2006 to 2016, **textbook prices rose by 87%, about three times the rate of inflation**.² Due to the high and rising costs of course materials, students face academic consequences and financial challenges.

Challenges Villanova students face*

"It is extremely difficult to come up with \$300-\$500 a semester for textbooks every semester. Although I have borrowed money from family members for some semesters, that was not an option every semester. It is especially frustrating when teachers require that we purchase books that are \$80-\$100 for one reading assignment for one class, and then we never use it again."
– *Political Science major*

"If current editions are expensive, I must resort to older ones which often don't have the same organization or homework problems as the current edition."
– *Biology major*

"Being late for assignments and not being able to pay in time for the books."
– *Mechanical Engineering major*

"Sometimes I could simply not afford the textbooks and so I had to make due in the course without them."
– *Nursing major*

"I've been behind on schoolwork. I have had to work around my classmate's schedule in order to use her book. I've had to show up to class unprepared."
– *English major*

* Responses to Textbook Survey administered by Villanova's Center for Access, Success and Achievement (CASA)

Ways you can help:

- ▶ **Submit book lists for every course by the semester due date.** Prompt book adoptions allow the Villanova Bookstore to get better deals with wholesalers and give students more time to save for books and search for the most affordable options. The adoption deadlines are **March 15** for the fall semester and **October 15** for the spring. For guidance, contact **Bernadette Mania** at bmania01@villanova.edu.
- ▶ **Select cost-free materials.** Contact your **subject librarian** at Falvey for help identifying subscribed electronic resources or free open access resources to use in place of traditional course readings. To find your subject librarian, consult: <https://library.villanova.edu/research/ask-librarian/findsubject-librarian>.
- ▶ **Consider applying for an OER Faculty Adoption Grant.** Thanks to the generosity of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, five \$1000 grants for the 2020-21 academic year were awarded to faculty for revising courses to use open educational resources (OER). We hope a new round of grants will open early 2021!
<https://library.villanova.edu/amp/oer-grant.html>.
- ▶ **Learn about other cost-saving approaches.** Adopting previous editions, avoiding access codes whenever practical and using electronic course reserves are trusted ways to make learning affordable. To learn more, visit the **Faculty page of the AMP website**: <https://library.villanova.edu/amp/faculty.html>.

¹ <https://www1.villanova.edu/content/dam/villanova/finaid/2021/2021EDAwardBooklet.pdf>

² <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/mobile/college-tuition-and-fees-increase-63-percent-since-january-2006.htm>