Navigating College Course Materials

We know buying course materials can be difficult to navigate. Helping UC students achieve academic success affordably is our primary goal. Use these key points as tools to guide your summer homework.

Affordability Strategies

- Purchase new or used
- Rent new or used
- includED®
- Borrow from classmate or library
- Price Match Guarantee

UC SmartBooks

- Significant savings
- Work online, offline, on phone, tablet or computer
- Perpetual access or export and share highlighted passages and notes
- Review mode for studying

Formats

- Carefully compare ISBN numbers for the correct version
- Print
- Digital UC SmartBooks
- Access codes and courseware
- Custom packets

Why UC Bookstores?

- Only source for all course materials required by professors
- Only place that offers UC SmartBooks
- Student savings of $2.2 million last year
- Gives back to the university with student scholarships, programs and services
- Order online and have materials waiting for your arrival

uc.edu/mainstreet/study/course-materials
uc.edu/bookstore
Finding Books in Catalyst

• Open schedule in Catalyst
• Look for book icon on each course
• Click to find required materials, formats offered and prices

Order online and materials will be ready for pickup before classes start!

See this? includED®
No shopping required for the course!

Setting up a student rental account

Step 1 Visit uc.edu/mainstreet/tcob
Step 2 Click on Create Text Rental Account button
Step 3 Complete registration using student’s personal information
  • UC email, first name, last name, mobile phone, billing address
  • Enter credit card information (No charges at registration)
  • Agree to the terms

Your personal information will not be shared with third parties
Your credit card is not charged during the rental set up process
Step 4 Click “Submit”
Step 5 Receive confirmation email that registration is complete

Creating a UC SmartBooks Account

UC SmartBooks eTextbook service is provided through VitalSource®

• Navigate to https://www.vitalsource.com/sign_up
• Complete the form, using your UC email address, and include the institution name to ensure better support
• Click “Create Account” to complete the process for pickup before classes start!

Shopping in-store?
The shelf tag says it all!

Choosing UC SmartBooks?
Grab a blue tag and take to checkout. Your access code will be on your purchase receipt.