

## Data Collection: Estimated Cost per Credit Hour

Follett has proposed charging \$28 per credit hour to NMSU undergraduates in order to cover all textbooks and materials within their *Equity Access Books4Success Program*. In order to address the question of whether this cost would offer a savings to NMSU students, Student Success Chair K. Finlator estimated the total textbook + material costs for 10 current NMSU undergraduates spanning a range of disciplines and years. Raw data follow and are compiled into a spreadsheet at the end. A typical cost per credit hour of \$13 to \$15 is derived. Even if students obtained all of their textbooks and materials at the NMSU Bookstore's current pricing (that is, if they never comparison-shopped using the internet or other tools), mean and median costs are \$15-\$16 per credit hour, respectively.

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Student 1: Sophomore in History

AERO-121-M03-CL HERITAGE AND VALUES 2cr  
no textbooks

AERO-121-M1A-LB TEAM & LEADERSHIP FUND 2cr  
no textbooks

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr  
no textbooks

GEOG-1110G-M70-WB PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, 4cr  
- Applied Physical Geography Lab Manual (Christopherson) ISBN 9780134686363  
- NMSU bookstore:  
- rent \$72.66 used  
- buy used \$129.75  
- buy new \$173  
- AbeBooks: ISBN 10: 0134686365 / ISBN 13: 9780134686363  
- \$46.73 + \$3.75 shipping used  
- \$129.44 + \$0 shipping new  
- Elemental Geosystems 9th edition (Christopherson) ISBN 9780134867946  
- NMSU bookstore:  
- buy digital \$37.50  
- amazon.com:  
- buy digital \$94.99  
- buy used paperback \$107.23  
- buy new paperback \$219.99

GEOG-373-M70-WB INTRO REMOTE SENSING 4cr  
no textbooks

total cost in range (\$110.16, \$210.50) bookstore and \$145.47 online NMSU  
bookstore: \$84.23  
NMSU bookstore + online: \$87.98  
16 credits total = \$448 over Follett Books4Success

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Student 2: Junior in Business Admin

ASTR 1120G M70 4, none  
BCIS-338-M70-WB BSN INFO SYSTEMS I 3

- MyLab IT with Pearson eText Access Code for Your Office Microsoft 365: Excel 2025 ISBN: 9780135442142  
- NMSU Bookstore  
- \$86.75 digital (valid 180 days)  
- online (Vitalsource.com)  
\$149.92, (valid 2 years)

- Using MIS by Kroenke ISBN: 9780135312568
- NMSU Bookstore
- \$116.25, digital
- VitalSource
- \$94.99, digital

#### BLAW-316-M05-CL LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUS 3

- Business Law and the Regulation of Business 12th Edition by Mann ISBN 9781305509559
- NMSU bookstore:
  - rent used \$163.80 (one term), digital \$62.99 (180 days); \$86.49 (365 days)
  - buy \$409.50 (used), \$546 (new)
  - buy digital \$109.99
- AbeBooks:
  - buy used \$21.04
- Amazon:
  - buy new hardcover \$161.99; \$86.49 eTextbook

#### MATH-1350G-M07-CL INTRO TO STAT 3

- ALEKS 360 access to Blumens Elementary Statistics: A Brief Version (Custom) 9th edition ISBN: 9781266634437
- NMSU bookstore
  - buy digital \$117.00
- no clear analogue found online, but thriftbooks has something similar for \$144.92 (ISBN13:9781260387025)

#### MGMT-309-M01-CL HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN ORGS 3

- Organizational Behavior by Robbins, 19th edition ISBN: 9780137687299
- NMSU Bookstore
  - buy digital \$116.25
- Amazon: \$55.98 paperback
- Priority Textbook: \$79.99

total cost:

- bookstore: \$499.24
- online: \$438.93
- best combination NMSU bookstore + online: \$375.76

16 credits total, so \$448 over Follett B4S

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Student 3: Freshman, Bach of Business Admin

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr, none  
no textbooks

#### BCIS-1110-M05-CL INTRO TO INFORMATION SYSTEMS 3cr

- MyLab MIS with Pearson eText Instant Access for Using MIS 13e + Exploring 2025 by Kroenke ISBN: 9780135408483
- NMSU Bookstore:
  - \$138.75 (for 126 days) Vital
- Source:
  - \$149.92 for two years

#### BUSA-1110-M04-CL INTRO TO BUSINESS 3cr

- Foundations of Business by Pride, 7th edition ISBN: 9798214343976
- NMSU Bookstore:
  - \$62.99 digital for 180 days
- Online:
  - Amazon: \$79.31 paperback
  - VitalSource: \$68.99 eBook
  - Seek a Book: \$18.32 (instant delivery through email???)
  - Abebooks: \$82.00 used

#### ENGL-1110G-M30-HY COMPOSITION I4cr

- Paideia 19 (NMSU Custom): \$41.00 MATH-

#### 1350G-M14-CL INTRO TO STAT 3cr

- ALEKS 360 access to Blumans Elementary Statistics: A Brief Version (Custom) 9th edition ISBN: 9781266634437
- NMSU bookstore
  - buy digital \$117.00
- no clear analogue found online, but thriftbooks has something similar for \$144.92 (ISBN13:9781260387025)

Total cost:

- bookstore: \$359.74
- online: \$376.91 (although two books only available at NMSU Bookstore)

17 credits total, so \$476 over b4s

===== 24 minutes for student 3 Student 4:

Freshman BS in Agriculture (ACES)

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr  
no textbooks

ECON-2110G-M72-WB MACROECONOMIC PRINCIPLES 3cr

- Principles of Economics 4th edition ISBN: 9781324033851
- NMSU Bookstore:
  - digital rental 180 days \$133.25
  - buy new \$249.00
- Online:
  - AbeBooks: \$63.54 +\$3.75 shipping used
  - Amazon: \$72.63

MATH-1130G-M81-ONL SURVEY OF MATHEMATICS 3cr  
no textbooks

MUSC-1130G-M71-WB WESTERN MUSIC 3cr

- Music 101: A Guide to Active Listening for a Generation Online, Shearer-Bugbee, ISBN: 9798385141166 (Required Edition not available on NMSU bookstore site)
- NMSU Bookstore:
  - Rent Digital for 180 days \$110.00
- Amazon:
  - Second edition available for \$24.00, but not clear whether this is sufficient

Total cost:

- bookstore: \$243.25
- bookstore + online: \$177.29
- b4s: 16 credits -> \$448

Student 5: Junior, Bach of Science in Biology

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr  
no textbooks

BIOL-2110L-M07-LB CELL/MOLE BIOL LAB 1cr

- BIOL 2110 Cellular & Molecular Biology Laboratory Manua by Marion, 2e, ISBN: 9781533973726
- NMSU Bookstore:
  - buy new \$40.75
- no online analogue

BIOL-2610G-M03-CL BIODIVERSITY, ECOLOGY&EVOL 3cr

- Pearson eText Campbell Biology: Concepts & Connections Access Card (2218 Custom) by Taylor; 10e; ISBN: 9780136538875
- NMSU Bookstore: Buy digital \$53.50
- Amazon: \$134.90

BIOL-2610L-M10-LB BIODIVERSITY, ECOLOGY&EVOL LAB 1cr

- BIOL 2610 Lab Manual (Custom) by Marion ISBN: 9781533955593
- NMSU Bookstore: New \$45,00
- no online analogue

ECON-2110G-M70-WB MACROECONOMIC PRINCIPLES 3cr

- Prin of Macroeconomics (Custom), by Mateer, 4e ISBN: 9781324034100
- NMSU Bookstore: Digital (180 days) \$95.00
- VitalSource: Digital (180 days) \$88.95

PHYS-1230G-M01-CL ALGEBRA-BASED PHYSICS I 3cr

- Modified Mastering Physics with Pearson eText -- Access Card -- for Physics (18-Weeks) 5e, ISBN: 9780136781356
- NMSU Bookstore: digital rental \$113.50
- online
- AbeBooks: \$77.70 + \$3.99 shipping (New)
- Amazon: \$66.35 + \$3.99 delivery

Total Cost:

- bookstore: \$347.75
- bookstore + online: \$298.54
- b4s: 15 credits -> \$420

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Student 6: Freshman, Bach of Criminal Justice

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr  
no textbook

ENGL-2210G-M75-WB PROF & TECH COMM 3cr

- Technical Communication by Markel, 13e, ISBN: 9781319307691
- NMSU Bookstore: \$54.99 for digital rental 180 days
- Amazon: buy used \$79.89 (kindle \$68.99)

EPWS-325V-M70-WB INSECTS/HUMANS & ENVIRO 3cr

- Bugs in The System by Berenbaum (Recommended!) ISBN: 9780201408249
- NMSU Bookstore:
- Rent \$8.80 due 12/13/25; buy used \$16.50, new \$22.00, digital \$13.99
- AbeBooks: \$5.35 (free shipping)

MATH-1215-M14-CL INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA 3cr

- WebAssign for Intermediate Algebra: Connecting Concepts (Custom) 2e, ISBN: 9781337615655
- NMSU Bookstore: \$95.00 (digital)
- VitalSource: \$111.15 (180 day rental)

PHLS-1110G-M70-WB PERSONAL HEALTH & WELLNESS 3cr

- Health: The Basics by Donatelle, 14e, ISBN: 9780137886364
- NMSU Bookstore: buy \$98.00 (digital)
- Amazon: \$94.99 (kindle) or \$216.14 (paperback)

Total cost:

- NMSU Bookstore: \$256.79
- bookstore + online: \$253.34
- b4s: \$448

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Student 7: Junior, BS in Computer Science

ARTH-1115G-M72-WB ORIENTATION IN ART 3cr

- Prebles' Artforms by Frank, 12e, ISBN: 9780134793177
- NMSU Bookstore: buy digital \$110.25
- Online:
- Amazon eTextbook \$88.99; Paperback \$159.98; \$219.99
- VitalSource eText Access Code \$54.96

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr  
no textbooks

CSCI-2220-M01-CL INTRO TO DATA STRUCTURES/ALGO 4cr

- Data Structures and Other Objects Using Java by Main, 4e, ISBN: 9780133001914
- NMSU Bookstore rent digital 365 days \$46.75
- online:

- AbeBooks \$21.21 + \$3.75 shipping (used softcover)
- Amazon: \$39.62 (used, from firstclassbooks)

CSCI-2220-M1A-LB INTRO TO DATA STRUCTURES/ALGO 0cr  
no textbooks

ENGL-2130G-M70-WB ADVANCED COMPOSITION 3cr  
- Media Literacy in Action : Questioning the Media by Hobbs; 1e; ISBN: 9781538115299  
- NMSU Bookstore: digital rental (365 days) \$97.25  
- AbeBooks: \$51.87 + \$2.64 used softcover

FYEX-1117-M76-WB FINANCIAL LITERACY 2cr  
no textbooks

Total Cost:  
NMSU Bookstore: \$254.25  
bookstore + online: \$134.43  
b4s: 16 credits = \$448

Student 8: Freshman, Bach of CJ (A&S)

AERO-121-M1A-LB HERITAGE AND VALUES 2cr  
no textbooks

AERO-121-M03-CL HERITAGE AND VALUES (probably 1 cr)  
no textbooks

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr  
no textbooks

CJUS-1120-M01-CL CRIMINAL LAW 3cr  
- Criminal Law for the Criminal Justice Professional: 2024 Release by Garland ISBN: 9781260974034  
- NMSU Bookstore: Rent Digital 998 days \$46.75  
- Online  
- AbeBooks: \$108.84 (used) \$89.99 (new) [weird!]

PHIL-1145G-M02-CL PHILOSOPHY, LAW, & ETHICS 3cr  
no textbooks

SOCI-1110G-M03-CL INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY 3cr  
no textbooks

Total cost:  
- NMSU Bookstore: \$46.75  
- online: \$89.99  
b4s: 16 credits -> \$448

Student 9: Senior Biology BS (A&S)

A ST-311-M02-CL STATISTICAL APPLCN 3cr  
- Basic Practice of Statistics by Moore, 9e, ISBN: 9781319244378  
- NMSU Bookstore:  
- \$73.99 or \$77.99 rent 180 days [don't understand the difference]  
- \$241 buy used  
- online:  
- Amazon new & used for \$85; new \$303  
- AbeBooks \$123.44

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr  
no textbooks

BIOL-322-M01-CL ZOOLOGY 3cr  
- Animal Diversity by Hickman, 9e, ISBN: 9781260957501

- NMSU Bookstore:
  - rent digital 998 days \$46.75
- Online:
  - Amazon \$69.30 paperback
  - VitalSource eTextbook \$60 for 180 days

BIOL-322-M1E-LB ZOOLOGY (probably 1cr)

- Van De Graaff's Photographic Atlas/Zoology Lab (LoosePgs) by Adams, 8e, ISBN: 9781617317675
- NMSU Bookstore:
  - buy new \$67.50
- Amazon: \$47.11 (loose leaf/used)

BIOL-462-M01-CL CONSERVATION BIOL. 3cr

- Conservation Biology by Cardinale, 2e, ISBN: 9780197667019
- NMSU bookstore:
  - rent digital \$65 (180 days); \$75 (365 days)
  - buy new \$150, digital \$100
- Amazon: \$149.99 paperback
- AbeBooks: \$165.54 new [why??]

BIOL-467-M01-CL EVOLUTION 3cr

- Evolution by Mark Kirkpatrick, 5e, ISBN: 9780197619636
- NMSU Bookstore:
  - rent digital \$57.00
- Amazon: \$160.25 hardcover; \$90.65 used

Total Cost:

- NMSU Bookstore: \$310.24
  - bookstore + online: \$289.85
- b4s: \$448

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Student 10: Junior BA in Art

ARTH-2136-M20-CL WRITING IN ART 3cr

- Methods & Theories of Art History by Cothren, 3e, ISBN: 9781913947026
- NMSU Bookstore:
  - buy used (\$15), new (\$20), digital (\$4.99)
- AbeBooks: \$13.68 + \$3 shipping
- Amazon: Used \$15 + \$3.99 shipping
- Writing about Art by Gocsik (recommended), ISBN: 9780500841815
- NMSU Bookstore: rent used \$12.30, digital 180 days \$19.75; buy used \$23.25 / new \$30.75
- AbeBooks: buy used \$20.21 + free shipping

ARTS-1410-M01-CL INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY 3cr  
no textbooks

ARTS-2839-M02-CL INTRO TO SCULPTURE 3cr  
no textbooks

ASTR-1120G-M70-WB THE PLANETS 4cr  
no textbooks

Total cost:

- NMSU Bookstore: \$17.29
- b4s: \$448

Total Textbook costs for 10 representative students, Fall 2025

Student	year	major	credits	total cost: NMSU bookstore	total cost: NMSU bookstore + online	best cost/c-h
1	2	history	16	84.23	87.98	5.264375
2	3	business admin	16	499.24	375.76	23.485
3	1	business admin	16	359.74	376.91	22.48375
4	1	agriculture	16	243.25	177.29	11.080625
5	3	biology	16	347.75	298.54	18.65875
6	1	criminal justice	16	256.79	253.34	15.83375
7	3	computer science	16	254.25	134.43	8.401875
8	1	criminal justice	16	46.75	46.75	2.921875
9	4	biology	16	310.24	289.85	18.115625
10	3	art	16	17.29	17.29	1.080625
average				241.953	205.814	12.732625
median				255.52	215.315	13.4571875