Aside from tuition, textbooks are the leading financial stressor for students.

- **85%** of students say paying for textbooks and course materials is financially stressful, compared to:
  - 73% for student housing
  - 69% for healthcare
  - 63% for meals and food

- **87%** of students consider textbooks and course materials to be overpriced, on par with views on college tuition (86%).

Students make sacrifices to afford their textbooks and course materials:

- **4 in 10** skipped meals
- **2 in 10** changed their major to reduce the cost
- **3 in 10** decided not to take a course because of the high cost of textbooks
- **3 in 10** have taken fewer classes

- **86%** of students spend a few hours to a week searching for affordable course material options

- **1 out of 3** students forgo trips home so they can pay for textbooks

- **38%** of African American students forgo trips home to pay for textbooks

This poll was conducted from July 11 to 13, 2018, among a national sample of 1,651 current and former students from community colleges, two-year and four-year colleges, vocational or technical schools, and graduate schools. The interviews were conducted online and the results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.
Students know what they want: having access to textbooks and course materials is more important than owning them.

Women find paying for textbooks and course materials to be more financially stressful than men (60% v. 48%), and they're more likely to make large sacrifices in order to pay for them:

- 64% of women have purchased outdated versions of textbooks, compared to 57% of men.
- 76% of women have used financial aid or scholarship money to pay for textbooks and course materials, 10% more than men.
- 47% of women have taken out a loan to pay for textbooks, compared to 38% of men.

Demographic Deep Dive

- 52% of African Americans say paying for textbooks and course materials has a big impact on their financial situation while in school.
- 60% of African Americans have opted not to buy the required textbooks or course materials.
- 39% of African Americans are very interested in a subscription-based service for digital learning materials, more than Whites and Hispanics.
- 64% of Hispanics have opted not to buy the required textbooks or course materials.
- 41% of Hispanics have decided not to take a course because of the cost of textbooks or course materials.

This poll was conducted from July 11 to 13, 2018, among a national sample of 1,651 current and former students from community colleges, two-year and four-year colleges, vocational or technical schools, and graduate schools. The interviews were conducted online and the results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.