



# E-Learning Extra OLN's Newsletter

## Steps You Can Take RIGHT NOW to Save Money on College Textbooks

High cost of textbooks got you down? According to the [University System of Ohio](#) Web site, the State of Ohio has been working diligently to find affordable options so that textbook and other material costs can be kept to a minimum for Ohio students. The University System of Ohio encourages professors to keep student costs in mind when specifying textbooks and other learning materials for their courses. While many faculty have taken steps to introduce innovative digital content making materials available online or are using Open Educational Resources (OER), these choices aren't a "one size fits all" solution for students struggling to afford college textbooks and other learning materials.

The good news is that there are a number of options *students can take right now* to save money on college textbooks. Options include sharing materials, checking the campus or the state library consortium, [Ohio-LINK](#), searching online booksellers, renting textbooks and investigating

all options at your local campus bookstores. The following is a partial list of articles and sites which are sure ways to get you started. Additional resources are available at: <http://ohiotextbookhq.ning.com/page/for-students>. Know of more? Please [sign up](#) as a member of Ohio Textbook HQ and share your comments.

### Links to Online Textbook Purchase, Trade, Rental Sites and Resources

- [4 Ways to Save on College Textbooks](#) - The Wall Street Journal
- [4 Ways to Get College Textbooks Free \(And several other ways you can save money before you start studying\)](#) - U.S. News & World Report
- [Where to Buy Cheap College Textbooks - 29 Nifty Websites](#) - studenthacks.org
- [Best Places to Save Money on Textbooks](#) - [lifehacker.com](#)

Ohio Textbook



Affordable Textbooks and  
Alternative Learning Materials  
for Ohio College Students

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#### Special points of interest:

***Keep in touch with the newest happenings in online learning. Find out why going back to school may be right for you!***

***Find the resources and information you need to access education through online learning.***

***Check out our featured articles, degrees and Websites to help you fulfill your personal goals!***

## Online Tutoring Available for Many Students

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It's Sunday afternoon. You still can't figure out how to do those last two Calculus problems. The test is Monday. The college is closed. Who ya gonna call? The good news? You don't have to call anyone. Help is just a click away.



Fifteen public two-year and four-year colleges in Ohio have created the Ohio eTutoring collaborative. For more than 70,000 Ohio college students this means they will have access to free online, real-time tutoring in math, calculus, statistics and writing every day of the week from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. Students have the ability to post eQuestions or they can enter an eChat room to work directly with a tutor utilizing video, audio, eChat (instant messaging-like dialogue), and a whiteboard. Papers can be uploaded for review by a writing tutor. Trained tutors answer questions, point out areas of concern, and provide “next steps” in the writing process. “Online eTutors are trained professionals who choose to tutor utilizing technology. Many of them are experienced faculty members who enjoy a different student-teacher approach,” reveals Karen Boyd, Ohio’s eTutoring Program Coordinator at the Ohio Learning Network.

During fall of 2008 more than 70,000 students were enrolled in distance learning courses at Ohio colleges and universities. With more and more Ohio students enrolling in online and blended courses, online tutoring and other e-student services are crucial to student success. And the great news about eTutoring is that it’s not just for online students. “eTutoring does not distinguish between the two types of students. Trained tutors assist students who attend class in the traditional classroom and those who choose to earn course credit utilizing a computer,” explains Anna Bendo, Ph.D., Assistant Director of eStudent Services at OLN.

Students utilizing the eTutoring service are provided with additional resources to help them better understand the subject matter for which they are receiving tutoring assistance. Students receive feedback that helps increase their knowledge and understanding of the subject. Samira, a student, has been pleasantly surprised by the service, receiving more than she ever expected. “I think that I would not continue on in college and have a good grade without tutoring assistance,” stated Samira. When asked if she would recommend this service to other students Samira’s response was: “Sure. I just want everybody to know and look for the opportunities they have and they don’t use or appreciate. Tutoring is one of them. It will cost nothing but just a little of the student’s time and the result is to improve their knowledge as well as their grades.”

“I think that I would not continue on in college and have a good grade without tutoring assistance,” stated Samira.

“Currently, 15 public colleges and universities offer free eTutoring. More schools will be joining in the fall.” explains Boyd. The easiest way to find out if you are eligible for eTutoring is to visit [www.etutoring.org](http://www.etutoring.org). After selecting the login button, click on the Ohio eTutoring Collaborative. The drop down menu will reveal eligible schools. Check back in September to see if your school has been added to the list.

## Going to College: Adult Financial Assistance

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According to data from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the unemployment rate in Ohio as of March 2010 is 11%, an increase of more than 1% from 2009 and a full percent higher than the national rate of 9.7%. The rate in many counties is in excess of 15%, with the highest rate in Clinton County at 18.7%. With statistics like these, it is no wonder that adults are returning to college in increasing numbers.

Heather Sands, Director of College Access at [Scholarship Central](#) in Zanesville, Ohio, has noticed an increase in the number of adults contacting the college access office. Many have been laid off, others are worried about the potential of being laid off and are being proactive by enhancing their credentials. Andrew Prusinski, Resource Center Coordinator for [Cleveland Scholarship Programs, Inc.](#), agrees “We have seen a significant increase in the number of adults interested in going to college to earn a degree or job training. This is best highlighted by the increased numbers of adults who have applied for our Adult Learner Scholarship. In 2009, we had 203 applicants. In 2010, we had 473 applicants – a 133% increase!”

But there is good news! Even though paying for a college education has often been a barrier for adults, that is changing. More and more scholarships and financial assistance opportunities are available for adults heading to college either for the first time, or returning to finish a degree or gain new skills.

Heather recommends that displaced workers make their local Job and Family Services One Stop office their first stop to inquire about educational benefits. Heather and Andrew agree that the key first step in receiving financial assistance is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. Adult students are happy to learn that they are eligible for the same financial aid as traditional students. Completing the FAFSA is free, and there are many avenues through which to receive assistance in completing it, including your including your local One Stop office, your local [Ohio College Access Network](#) office, the financial aid office at any college or university, or by attending a [College Goal Sunday](#) event.

The next step Heather suggests for adults is researching local scholarships. Adults can often find adult-specific scholarships from local college access programs, local community foundations, or the college they will be attending. Scholarship Central and Cleveland Scholarship Programs both have multiple scholarships available for non-traditional students. In some cases, these scholarships are related to specific professions such as education, engineering or health care.

Sharon Lenthe, Student Financial Assistance Advisor at [Cuyahoga Community College](#) also agreed, students should complete the FAFSA first. The information will be from the previous year’s tax year information, but adult displaced workers can file a request for special circumstances which may increase the amount of financial aid available to them. At Cuyahoga Community College, scholarships are administered through the foundation office, including scholarships for non-traditional students. Although scholarships are one way of financing an education, Sharon encourages adults to seek other opportunities. Loans are one option, but prospective borrowers should seek loan counseling at their financial aid office to fully understand the student loans process and repayment. Sharon also recommends that if possible, seek part-time employment and other sources of income. If a student qualifies, Federal Work Study programs are a great way to supplement income, and the income earned from Work Study is not counted against the student’s financial aid. Again, the first step in the financial aid process is to complete the FAFSA application online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Sharon speaks from personal experience. She explains, “I was not a traditional student. I pursued my bachelors and masters degrees over a 20-year period; the time and effort were worth it. I would not trade my life experiences for anything.”

Andrew emphasizes the need for adult students to be persistent. “Just like a traditional student, an adult student needs to research different colleges and universities to find the best fit, search high and low for scholarships, and work hard academically to make a positive transition back to school. It takes a lot of work, but it’s worth it!”



## Related Links Check out our other initiatives and partners!

**Keeping you in touch  
with your future, one  
course at a time.**

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.ohiolearns.org](http://www.ohiolearns.org)

Contact us at:  
Ohio Learning Network  
35 E. Chestnut St, 8th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-2541  
Phone: 614-485-6444  
E-mail: [e4meohio@oln.org](mailto:e4meohio@oln.org)



Ted Strickland, Governor

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

[The University System of Ohio](#) is Ohio's superior network of public higher education institutions ensuring all Ohioans have access to a high-quality, affordable education.

Board of Regents

University System of Ohio



[OhioLearns!](#) is Ohio's catalog of distance learning courses and degrees. OhioLearns! provides quick and up-to-date access to distance learning courses and degrees offered by colleges and universities in Ohio.



[E 4 ME](#) is a FREE, fun and informative online experience designed to introduce you to e-learning.



[OCAN](#) is focused on helping Ohio residents pursue a college education by building and supporting local college access programs throughout the state.

## Featured Degrees

The education profession is a continuously evolving field. Academic standards are changing, the world is changing. In order to meet these changing demands educators must regularly update their skills. The OhioLearns! catalog offers more than 40 online programs designed to meet the needs of busy educators.

Degree programs include Early Childhood Education, Master of Education in Classroom Teaching, Master of Library Media Licensure, Special Education: Sign Language Interpreting -

Bachelor Completion Program and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction.

Endorsements and certificates include the Ohio Reading Endorsement; Principal Licensure; Highly Qualified Teacher; Gifted, Creative and Talented Endorsement; Endorsement in Adapted Physical Education; and Pre-K Special Needs Endorsement.

More information on these and other education-related programs and more can be found in the

OhioLearns! catalog at [www.ohiolearns.org](http://www.ohiolearns.org).

The OhioLearns! catalog contains more than 300 degrees and certificate programs offered by Ohio's regionally accredited colleges and universities.

