

FALL FINALS BUYBACK:

December 8 - 12, 2025

WINTER HOLIDAY:

December 24, 2025 -
January 2, 2026

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Fall 2025 Instant Access Complete/ Flexible Program Alert– Student Participation Up, Unfortunately So Are Publisher Costs

This Fall, we introduced a new feature to our automatic course materials delivery program: the “Flexible” tier, where students could opt in/out of individual courses/items and be billed just for the individual materials they wanted. We believed this would be helpful for students whose course loads didn’t require many course materials, but still used one or two crucial items like online homework.

We’re happy to report that this new feature launch has been positively received and increased overall student participation in the program.

Comparison with Fall 24:

	<u>Fall 2024</u>	<u>Fall 2025</u>	<u>Growth</u>
Total # of students:	27,796	27,935	
Opted in:	22,235	23,993	8%
Participation %:	80.0%	85.9%	
Total # of materials provided:	114,849	130,974	14%

Total savings compared to retail price for new books estimated at \$3.25 million.

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However, in this third year of IAC, **we are facing serious pressure from increased publisher costs on the sustainability of our program.** While it's natural that increased student participation would lead to increased costs of materials, several of our largest publishers had double-digit per unit cost increases. McGraw-Hill for example went from \$63.72 per unit in 2024 to \$74.34 per unit this Fall. McGraw-Hill is by far our largest course materials provider, and contributes 20% of the total materials cost of the program.

We will very likely be forced to increase our flat-rate per semester charge if this trend continues, unfortunately. But our faculty can help! By keeping cost in mind and choosing lower cost (or no cost!) options when content and quality are similar as you make your adoption decisions, that sends a clear message to publishers that we don't want to partner with vendors who squeeze our campus and our students to provide more profits for their shareholders. McGraw Hill recently bragged on a public earnings call about a 36% profit margin driven significantly by programs like ours.

Another factor driving costs is big companies like McGraw Hill urging their sales reps to convert faculty to switch from books to courseware because it "won't cost more". But the reality is it does cost more – at least from those companies. But faculty who like or need the features of courseware no longer need to choose just between the "Rolls Royce" courseware platforms from the major publishing corporations. Dozens of smaller alternative providers have entered this market in recent years and more are poised to do so. VitalSource has added courseware features to many of their books as well. Many of these products work well with e-books from OpenStax and OpenTextbooksLibrary and other major OER providers.

We're happy to help faculty research and compare how these lower cost options compare to current commercial publisher adoptions, and we encourage all of you to reach out to us if you're interested!

VitalSource Launches Pilot of Bookshelf+: The Next Generation of Trusted, AI-Powered Learning

VitalSource recently announced the launch of Bookshelf+, the next evolution of AI-powered learning. Built on more than a decade of learning science research, Bookshelf+ meets the growing demand for smarter, safer, and more engaging digital learning by integrating generative AI directly into the course materials platform by harnessing only the assigned content itself.

Bookshelf+ transforms passive reading into active learning, an approach backed by researched learning science principles, by adding an AI-powered study tutor directly into the eReader experience. Students can ask their book a question, break down complex concepts, compare key terms, generate flashcards, hear a passage read aloud in a natural, human voice, or study in their preferred language, with all the responses pulled from the instructor-selected course materials; no switching tools, no outside sources. Bookshelf+ is redefining what it means to study in the era of AI.

At launch, Bookshelf+ will be available on thousands of titles across content from publishers participating in the pilot.

“Generative AI is advancing at breakneck speed, and students are adopting it faster than institutions can respond,” said Kent Freeman, Chief Executive Officer of VitalSource. “We built Bookshelf+ so that our institutional partners can harness the power of this technology in a way that gives students the rich capabilities of AI while keeping every interaction rooted in the instructor-assigned content and the trusted environment of Bookshelf.”

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Unlike generic AI tools, Bookshelf+ only references instructor-approved materials and is backed by more than a decade of research and development. This commitment to ethical design and responsible implementation ensures that students and educators alike can trust the technology to support real learning.

Learn more about Bookshelf+ here: <https://get.vitalsource.com/what-we-offer/bookshelf-plus>

See a brief walkthrough here: <https://get.vitalsource.com/what-we-offer/bookshelf-plus>

More detailed blog post: <https://get.vitalsource.com/blog/discover-bookshelf>

Let us know here in the bookstore if you're interested in using Bookshelf+ or learning more about it!



Important Upcoming Dates:

Winter 2025 - Spring 2026

DATE	IMPORTANT DATE DESCRIPTION
10/03/25	Winter 2025 Course Materials Adoptions Due
10/06/25	Spring 2026 Course Materials Adoptions Due
10/14/25	Spring 2026 courses available for students to look up materials costs on https://pomona.verbacompare.com
12/08 - 12/12/25	Fall finals buyback
12/15 - 12/23/25	Winter Break Hours- M - F: 9am - 4pm (M and T only during the week of 12/22 - 12/26)
12/24/25 - 01/02/26	CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
01/05 - 01/16/26	Intersession hours 9am - 4pm
01/19/26	CLOSED FOR MLK DAY
01/20 - 01/24/26	Spring Semester Rush Extended Hours- T - F: 8am - 7pm Sat: 9am - 4pm
01/26 - 05/15/26	Regular Hours- M - Th: 8am - 6pm Fri: 9am - 4pm
02/02/26	LAST DAY STUDENTS CAN OPT OUT OF INSTANT ACCESS COMPLETE CHARGE
03/06/26	Summer 2026 Course Materials Adoptions Due
03/30/26	FALL 2026 COURSE MATERIALS ADOPTIONS DUE
03/30 & 04/01 - 04/03/26	Spring Break hours- 9am - 4pm
03/31/26	CLOSED FOR CESAR CHAVEZ DAY
04/06/26	Fall 2026 course materials cost information posted to bookstore cost comparison website
05/11 - 05/15/26	Finals Week Textbook Buyback
05/15 - 05/18/26	Commencement

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Important Upcoming Dates:

Winter 2025 - Spring 2026

SPRING SEMESTER 2026 TEXTBOOK REFUNDS for non-IAC Purchases

REGULAR REFUNDS

Last day to return Spring course material is 01/23/26. Register receipt dated 12/01/25 - 01/23/26 and photo I.D. required for refunds on non-IAC textbook purchases.

DROPPED CLASS REFUND PERIOD

Last day to return Spring course materials from dropped classes is 01/30/26. Register receipt dated 12/01/25 - 01/30/26, proof of dropped class and photo I.D. required for refunds of textbook purchases.

INSTANT ACCESS COMPLETE OPT OUT DEADLINE

02/02/26 is the last day for students to opt out and have the e-books charge on their student account reversed.