Course Materials Cost Students More Than Money

Julia Seaman, Bay View Analytics
Jeff Seaman, Bay View Analytics
Steven Bell, Temple University

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Welcome

Agenda
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2. Survey Results
3. Q&A

Julia Seaman
Director, Bay View Analytics

Jeff Seaman
Director, Bay View Analytics

Steven Bell
Associate University Librarian
Temple University

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INTRODUCTION TO BAY VIEW ANALYTICS

Bay View Analytics offers a comprehensive suite of consulting services in survey design and statistical research. Our services build on nearly two decades of research and survey design, sampling, and statistical analysis expertise.

Julia Seaman, Ph.D.  
Director of Research

Jeff Seaman, Ph.D.  
Director
How do course material costs affect students?
Goal:
To present a compelling narrative and benchmark data that resonates with decision makers, students, higher education administrators, parents, and other stakeholders. The ultimate aspiration is that stakeholders in affordable education can use the survey results to enhance affordability initiatives in meaningful ways, creating a more affordable and equitable course material landscape for students.
Institutions voluntarily participate.

Each institution responsible for communications to their own students.

All institutions use a common questionnaire.

Central organization administers the surveys and processes the data.

Central organization produces reports and presentations of the findings.

Collaboration between ALPA, PALCI, and Bay View Analytics
PROJECT RESULTS

14 Institutions

4,306 Students

National

500 Students
Not all students have the same level of worry. Students that reported higher levels of worry were:

- Black
- Hispanic
- Women
- Had a full-time job off campus
- Were a Pell Grant recipient.

81% of students are worried at some level
In Their Own Words - Worry

It has drained me.

Stress me out cause sometimes I am short on funds.

Didn't buy groceries for two weeks because I spent my grocery budget on textbooks.

Two jobs just to afford book, then I can't study properly because I'm too busy working.

It has made me chose between eating and buying course materials.

The cost of stopping me from continuing my education, because I just cannot afford it.
Majority of students do have financial aid, but for many it does not cover course materials costs. Only 13% of students report financial aid covers over 50% or more of their costs.
In your academic career, has the cost of required course materials caused you to:

- Fail a course: 15%
- Withdraw from a course: 15%
- Drop a course: 18%
- Take fewer courses: 27%
- Not register for a course: 32%
- Go without course materials: 34%
- Earn a poor grade: 38%

Only 23% of students have not had an impact on their academic career.
Material Costs Impact Academic Decisions, Too

In your academic career, has the cost of required course materials affected:

- Selecting your Institution: 39% Yes, affected, 61% No, not affected
- Selecting your Major: 31% Yes, affected, 69% No, not affected
- Selecting your Minor: 16% Yes, affected, 84% No, not affected
PA STUDENTS FACE UNIQUE CHALLENGES

How worried were you about meeting your course material costs this term?

National

Pennsylvania

The overall level of worry is 11% higher in Pennsylvania compared to the national level. Pennsylvania students report 2x levels of “extremely worried.”
CONCLUSION

Course materials costs are a **significant issue** for students. The high cost of materials causes **high levels of worry** and impacts their **academic success negatively and directly**.

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This project is based on research started by Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) and continued by other states and organizations.
Bay View Analytics, with state organizations of FLVC, VIVA, CARLI, PALCI and education organizations SPARC and WCET, are working to create a student survey toolkit.

In the meantime, we are all happy to advise or support individual and group efforts to expand this research wherever you are.
THANK YOU!

JULIA@BAYVIEWANALYTICS.COM