

Bookstore textbook buyback dates

May 4,7-9

9am-12pm, 1pm-4pm

1. Why does the PHC Bookstore offer a buyback service?

- To establish a method for students to dispose of texts no longer needed or wanted.
- To obtain a supply of required books that can be re-sold to students at the lowest possible price. Our best source of used books is our own students!

2. How does the bookstore determine which books to buy?

- Faculty book orders
- Class enrollment
- Existing book inventory

3. Why are some books worth so much more than others?

The bookstore always pays the best price for books needed in the coming semester. If your book will be used, we will pay you 50% of the book's retail price, provided we are not overstocked on that title. For example, a textbook with a retail price of \$50 will be worth \$25 if purchased for resale in the bookstore, regardless of where you purchased it or how much you paid for it.

4. Why can't I sell all my books for the 50% price and what can I do with the ones you won't purchase at the higher price?

There are several factors that can prevent a book from being purchased at the higher bookstore price:

- The professor has not yet submitted a book order.
- The professor has chosen to reuse the book, but it has gone into a new edition.
- The class using the book is not being offered the following semester at PHC.
- The bookstore has reached its quota for that title. (If, for example, the bookstore needs only 10 copies of Campbell's **Biology**, we will pay 50% of the retail price only for the first 10 books we buy.)

You always have the option to sell these "non-retail" books to MBS, our used-book wholesaler.

5. Why do the wholesalers only pay 10-30% for textbooks?

The value of books is determined by national demand and current marketability. Wholesale companies typically pay between 10% and 30% of the new book price for current editions of textbooks they can resell to other colleges and universities. Many risk factors enter into the value of a book, such as the age of its edition and the book's demand on other campuses. These considerations plus processing and shipping costs makes a difference in the price they offer for each book.

6. Why do some books have no market value to either the bookstore or the used book wholesaler?

- **The book is an old edition.** Once a book changes edition, the old editions have no resale value on the textbook market. (The average life of a textbook is about three years.)
- **The book is in unusable condition.** These include damaged books or books with excessive markings which would make the book useless to the next person who buys it (e.g. a foreign language book with every translation written in or one with all the answers filled in).
- **The book is consumable.** In general, we do not buy back workbooks, lab manuals, study guides, or locally produced (photocopied) materials.
- **The book is a "bestseller" or a religious title.** Both of these have a weak resale value in the national college market. Often "trade" and religious titles are not used in enough schools across the country to warrant purchase by the used book wholesalers.

Other handy hints about buy-back!

It doesn't matter where you bought your books! Even if your books came from Amazon or E-bay, we can take them during Buy-back if they meet the necessary criteria.

We can't give you prices on specific titles until buyback actually begins. We just don't know how much we will be paying for a book until we receive the MBS database and you come in ready to sell the books!

Sadly, there are no guarantees. We can't promise that the textbooks you purchase will be used again by an instructor anywhere in the country. Textbooks are a learning tool, and hopefully, valuable to your education. You should not buy books with the expectation of reselling every one -- that happens in very few cases. The real value of a book is obtained by studying it carefully; if it can be resold when no longer needed, that is an extra bonus.