

Alternate Format Textbooks and Copyright

Why do I need to purchase my textbooks?

The people who write textbooks and the companies who publish them are required to follow the [Canadian Copyright Act](#) and so are the students who use these textbooks!

The Copyright Act is intended to protect the rights of the authors and publishers to ensure that books or their contents are not stolen or copied.

- There are some exceptions that explain when it is okay to copy a textbook or part of a textbook. There is an exception that says you – or someone on your behalf – can copy a textbook in order to change it into a format required for a perceptual disability. This applies if you have purchased a copy of the book AND The book is not available to purchase in the format you require.

What does this mean for me?

1. **Talk to us BEFORE you purchase your books.** Your Accessibility Specialist or Adaptive Technology Coordinator can help determine which format meets your needs the best and help you find out if you can purchase that format from the start.
2. **Plan how to pay for your textbooks EARLY.** For example, if you need a student loan to cover the cost of your textbooks, apply for your loan early so that you are able to buy your textbooks before your classes begin.
3. **When you buy your textbooks, KEEP a receipt.** Whether you buy your books at the bookstore, online, or second hand – remember to get a receipt so you can show proof of purchase.

How do I submit a request for alternate format textbooks?

If you have alternate format texts on your accommodation plan, you can submit your requests for alternate format texts through the [Accessibility Services portal for students](#).

When you submit your request for alternate format textbooks online, you will be asked to upload your proof of purchase. Without proof of purchase, you will not be able to complete your request.