

COURSE MATERIAL INITIATIVE (CMI)

What is the Course Materials Initiative (CMI)?

The Course Materials Initiative, or CMI, is a program developed to provide students with reduced pricing for course materials through digital textbooks and ancillaries, such as WebAssign, ALEKs, Connect, MyLabs, Flipt and more. The course materials are integrated directly into Blackboard via a common digital platform (VitalSource). The Bookstore negotiated directly with publishers to obtain special UMBC pricing; currently UMBC has contracts with the following publishers: APA, Cengage, MacMillan, McGraw Hill, Norton, Pearson, Sage and Wiley. Cost savings range from 15% to 55%, depending on the textbooks and ancillary materials, with an average savings of 34%.

How does CMI work?

Courses are identified to participate in CMI based on faculty decisions. All students registering for these courses receive direct communication about the CMI program via email from the Bookstore via Verba Connect. CMI information is also provided at the time of registration. Students may choose whether to obtain their course materials through the CMI program or from another source; students have until the end of the "add/drop" period to make this decision. The course materials are charged to the students through their student bill; if a student drops the course by the add/drop period or chooses to opt out, the CMI charge is fully refunded on their bill. Since the course materials are digital, they are exempt from sales tax.

How do students access their course materials?

Students access their course materials via single sign-on in Blackboard, which includes a link to the e-textbook through VitalSource's bookshelf app and a link for direct access to ancillaries. Students may download the VitalSource App to their computer, as well as to multiple devices, for off-line access to the e-textbook. Students may also access their materials directly through the VitalSource webpage. Students maintain access to their e-book for 3 years online, and the ancillaries for 1–2 years, allowing for course retakes and use of materials for sequential courses. When downloaded for offline use, students will maintain access perpetually.

What if a student prefers a physical textbook?

There are three print options available to students: (1) Print up to 25 pages per log-in, at no other cost than the expense of paper and ink, (2) Purchase a print on demand copy from the publisher via VitalSource for an additional fee, and (3) Print copies are available on reserve in the UMBC library. There is also an option to print only highlights and notes using the VitalSource Notebook feature.

What are some of the functionality features that are available?

With the common digital VitalSource platform, students can highlight, take notes, copy/paste and share notes. They also have "Inside the Book" features such as "go to page", table of contents navigation, page layout changes and multiple viewing options. Assistive technology features include the ability to have the book read to the student and changing font sizes. Tutorial on these features are available at support.vitalsource.com

- [Navigating the Bookshelf Library](#)
- [Inside the Book](#)
- [Highlights and Notes](#)
- [Sharing and Subscribing](#)

For further information, please visit the Bookstore CMI webpage: Bookstore.umbc.edu/CMI