

# Affordability of Textbooks

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## Focus – Part 1

- How do colleges determine the amount to allocate for textbooks in the cost of attendance?



# Cost of Attendance

- Cornerstone of establishing student's financial need for aid programs



# Cost of Attendance

- Determined by law
  - Higher Education Act, Sec. 472
- Law specifies the types of costs included in the cost of attendance
- Institutions determine appropriate amounts



# Cost of Attendance

- Estimate of average student educational expenses for period of enrollment
- Different standard costs for different categories of students
  - CA Resident vs. Out-of-State



# Cost of Attendance

- Allowable Costs – 5 components
  - Tuition & Fees
  - Books & Supplies
  - Room & Board
  - Transportation
  - Misc/Personal



# Cost of Attendance

- Allowable Costs
  - Tuition & Fees
  - **Books & Supplies**
  - Room & Board
  - Transportation
  - Misc/Personal

LOOK



# SEARS Survey

- Guidelines based on average expenses reported by all students at all education segments in the 2003-2004 **Student Expenses & Resources Survey (SEARS)**, adjusted for 3 years of inflation



# SEARS Survey

- Student expense budget range guide published annually by the **California Community Colleges System Office**



# SEARS Survey

## *Standard Student Budget Ranges 2006-2007*

### **Books & Supplies \$1,332**

<b>Books</b>	<b>\$750</b>
<b>Educational Supplies</b>	<b>\$191</b>
<b>Course Material Fees</b>	<b>\$182</b>
<b>Computer-related Expenses</b>	<b>\$201</b>



# 2006-2007 Student College Budget

## College of the Canyons

<i>CA Resident</i>	<i>At Home</i>	<i>Off-Campus</i>
Fees	\$768	\$768
<b>Books/Supplies</b>	<b>\$1,332</b>	<b>\$1,332</b>
Housing/Meals	\$3,672	\$9,522
Transportation	\$828	\$954
Misc/Personal	\$2,430	\$2,340
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,030</b>	<b>\$14,916</b>



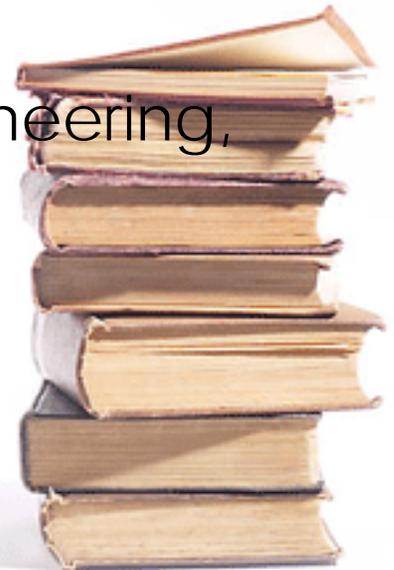
# Student "A"

- Re-entry independent student, single mother
- Family Size: **2**      Number in College: **1**
- 1st semester, Nursing Program
- Enrolled in **11 units**
- Required Book List **\$1,076**
- Campus Resources for Books: **NONE**
- Purchased used books and postponed purchase of other books  
**Savings \$75**



# Student "B"

- 1st generation college student, dependent student, lives with parents
- Family Size: **3**                      Number in College: **1**
- 4<sup>th</sup> semester Engineering major
- Enrolled in **15 units**
- Transfer Fall 2007, Aerospace Engineering, Cal Poly SLO
- Required Book List **\$739**
- Campus Resources for Books:  
**\$431 EOPS Book Grant**



# Student "C"

- 1st generation college student, & ESL, dependent student, lives with parents
- Family Size: **4** Number in College: **1**
- 2nd semester, Communications major
- Transfer Fall 2008, Public Relations, CSU Fullerton
- Enrolled in **17 units**
- Required Book List **\$612**
- Campus Resources for Books:  
**\$300 EOPS Book Grant**



## Focus – Part 2

- What are the challenges and strategies in disbursing financial aid to students for textbook purchases?



# Challenges

## Students who:

- Are not eligible for Federal & State financial aid programs
- Apply late for financial aid
- Have limited resources for books



# Challenges

## Colleges which do not:

- Provide adequate funds for financial aid staff to serve students
- Have student accounts to authorize bookstore credit for textbook purchases
- Promote AB 2477 guidelines



# Challenges

## Colleges which do not:

- Fundraise to provide students with alternative textbook resources
- Require faculty to contain textbooks prices
- Demand that bookstores deliver cost savings to students



# Strategies

- Disburse aid prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of classes
- Book vouchers/grants
- Bookstore credit to eligible aid students
  - Student financial aid advance
  - Deducted from aid disbursed
- Emergency loan program
  - Secured against future aid
  - Must be repaid in 30 days



# Strategies

- Book Grants for Special Populations
  - EOPS, VTEA, AB 540
- Textbook Lending Libraries
  - Students & faculty donate books
  - Bookstore, Foundation, Associated Students & others provide funds
- Priority Purchase Used Books
  - Financial aid eligible students
- Campus Book Swap



# Final Comments

- **California Community Colleges**
  - Cost of textbooks plays a MAJOR ROLE in the overall issue of college affordability
  - #1 reason students give for not successfully completing courses
  - Cost of books is the largest direct educational expense



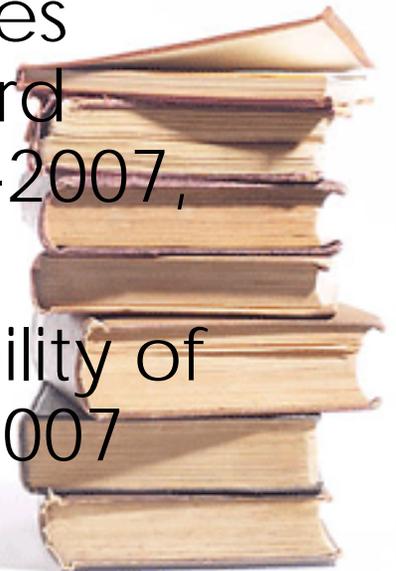
# Final Comments

- **California Community Colleges**
  - Affordability of books determines the degree of student success, retention & completion
  - Financial aid students have enrollment fees waived, but find themselves unable to proceed because of the high cost of books



# Resources

- U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Handbook, 2006-2007, Volume 3, Chapter 2, Pages 3-17...3-24
- California Community Colleges System Office, SEARS, Standard Student Budget Ranges 2006-2007, 210/SSBR Revised, 03/20/06
- CCCSFAAA Survey "Affordability of Textbooks", B. Asmus, 02/02/2007



# The End

