

# LOW-COST MATERIALS

*promoting equity together*



## CUTTING COSTS, PROMOTING EQUITY

We're excited to continue our Promoting Equity Together (P.E.T.) initiative focused on reducing the cost of course materials for students.

While many students can afford required materials, others face financial strain. A Bentley Library survey found that 48% of students spent \$300 or more on course materials in Fall 2023. This project aims to better understand these costs and identify ways to make learning resources more affordable and accessible for all.



## LOW-COST COURSE TAG IN WORKDAY

For Fall 2026 registration, some courses sections will be tagged **Low-Cost Materials** to provide students with greater transparency into the true cost of course materials to aid decision-making. In this pilot initiative, students will be able to filter courses in four departments—**English and Media Studies, Finance, Natural and Applied Sciences, and Management**—for courses where the total cost of required materials is **\$50 USD or less** for the entire semester. This cost is separate from tuition.

- The tag applies only to one-time purchases for a single semester.
- Courses requiring ongoing subscriptions (e.g., Cengage Unlimited or Netflix-style packages) do not qualify, even if the subscription spans multiple courses or terms.

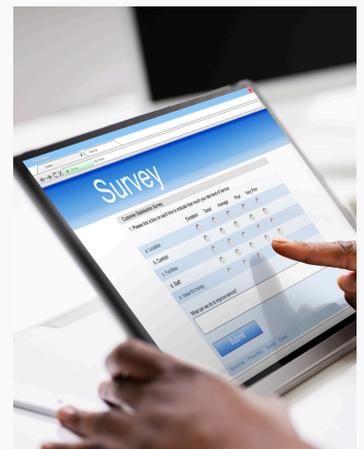
## FINDING LOW-COST SECTIONS

Students will be able to browse, filter, and register for course sections marked with the **Low-Cost Materials** tag. When registering for courses in participating departments, the Low-Cost Materials tag will appear in Workday and Schedule Planner for sections that meet the criteria. A filter option will be available to help identify eligible sections that have been declared low cost.

## QUICK SURVEY

Students will receive a short, anonymous survey (~5 minutes) to help us evaluate this pilot program.

- **Purpose:** Understand whether the Low-Cost tag influenced course selection.
- **Privacy:** No personally identifiable information will be collected.



For more information about the Low-Cost tag, pilot program, or survey, please contact: **James Thibeault, Open Educational Resources Librarian** [jamesthibeault@bentley.edu](mailto:jamesthibeault@bentley.edu)