Textbooks/Access Codes:

Students should refer to their course syllabus or connect with their course instructor to check if access code support is being provided to low-income students. If support is being provided, the department is responsible for acquiring the access codes.

Important Notes:

- It is your responsibility to plan for required textbook expenses. Please consider creative solutions to make sure that you have all required materials for your courses.
- The FIRST Resource Center does not have any access codes. We assist a small number of departments with distributing the access codes that are provided to us only.
- Additionally, since textbooks and access codes are factored into a student’s financial aid package, the FIRST Resource Center is unable to offer financial assistance to help cover these costs.
- Students should not contact the Financial Aid office to inquire about access codes. Financial Aid does not provide access code support.

Students may refer to the following potential resources for support:

- Textbooks on reserve
- Interlibrary loans
- Connecting with your faculty member to see if they can offer support
- Purchasing a used book through online class pages, the Tufts Bookstore, or other websites such as Abebooks.com, Chegg.com, Slugbooks.com, eCampus.com, ebooks.com, or Amazon.com
  - Students should take advantage of the Tufts Bookstore price matching policy if they find better prices on these sites to avoid paying for shipping charges.
- Consider connecting with your Financial Aid Counselor to explore possible funding options such as borrowing a loan, if applicable.

Each semester, students have the opportunity to borrow textbooks from the Book It Forward Lending Library free of charge. The book request form is open for the Spring 2022 semester. Each student will receive an email confirming the availability of their requested books. There may be a delay in responses due to the capacity of FIRST Center Staff.

- Students with a Family Contribution of $10,000 and below may access books at any time during the semester. Those with a higher Family Contribution may only access books after the add period.

- Donations are also accepted! If you would like to donate to the Book It Forward Lending Library, please email FIRST@tufts.edu.
**Food Insecurity:**

- **Swipe It Forward:** The Swipe It Forward program is a combined initiative from Dining Services, TCU Senate, and the FIRST Resource Center. Students with demonstrated need can request up to 10 meals per semester, no questions asked. The meal bank functions on the donations of our community members, so students should be mindful when utilizing the meal bank. To learn more about meal donations, please visit the [Swipe It Forward](#) page.

- **Mini Food Pantry:** During the Fall 2021 semester, the FIRST Resource Center created a mini food pantry - located on the third floor of the FIRST Resource Center - for students to access as needed. Food options include vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. Please bear with us as we expand this resource during the Spring 2022 semester. As students take advantage of this resource, they should be mindful of other students who may also be in need.

**Financial Hardship:**

- **Unexpected Hardship Fund (UHF):** Students with an EFC of $10,000 or below can access this fund. The UHF supports academic, co-curricular, and unexpected funding requests. Grants will not exceed $500 over a student’s four years at Tufts University.

  Request categories include:
  - Essential technology support (repairs and replacement; mobile phones are excluded)
  - Fees or equipment for a course not covered by financial aid such as Music, Art, Photography, and EMT
  - Athletic equipment for team sports
  - Conference fees/expenses
  - Business attire
  - Graduate school expenses (Application fees, essential study materials [MCAT, LSAT, GRE prep materials], etc.)
  - Winter clothing and accessories (Spring 2022 Pilot)

- **Medical Co-Pay Funding:** Students with an EFC of $10,000 or below are eligible to receive a total of $300 over every 12-month period (starting with the date of the first request) in reimbursements for health and wellness co-pays.

  Request categories include:
  - Medical co-pays (Hospital fees, Dental fees, Vision fees and expenses)
  - Mental Health co-pays