

Select VCU Student Quotes

*From free responses on the Virginia Course
Materials Survey*

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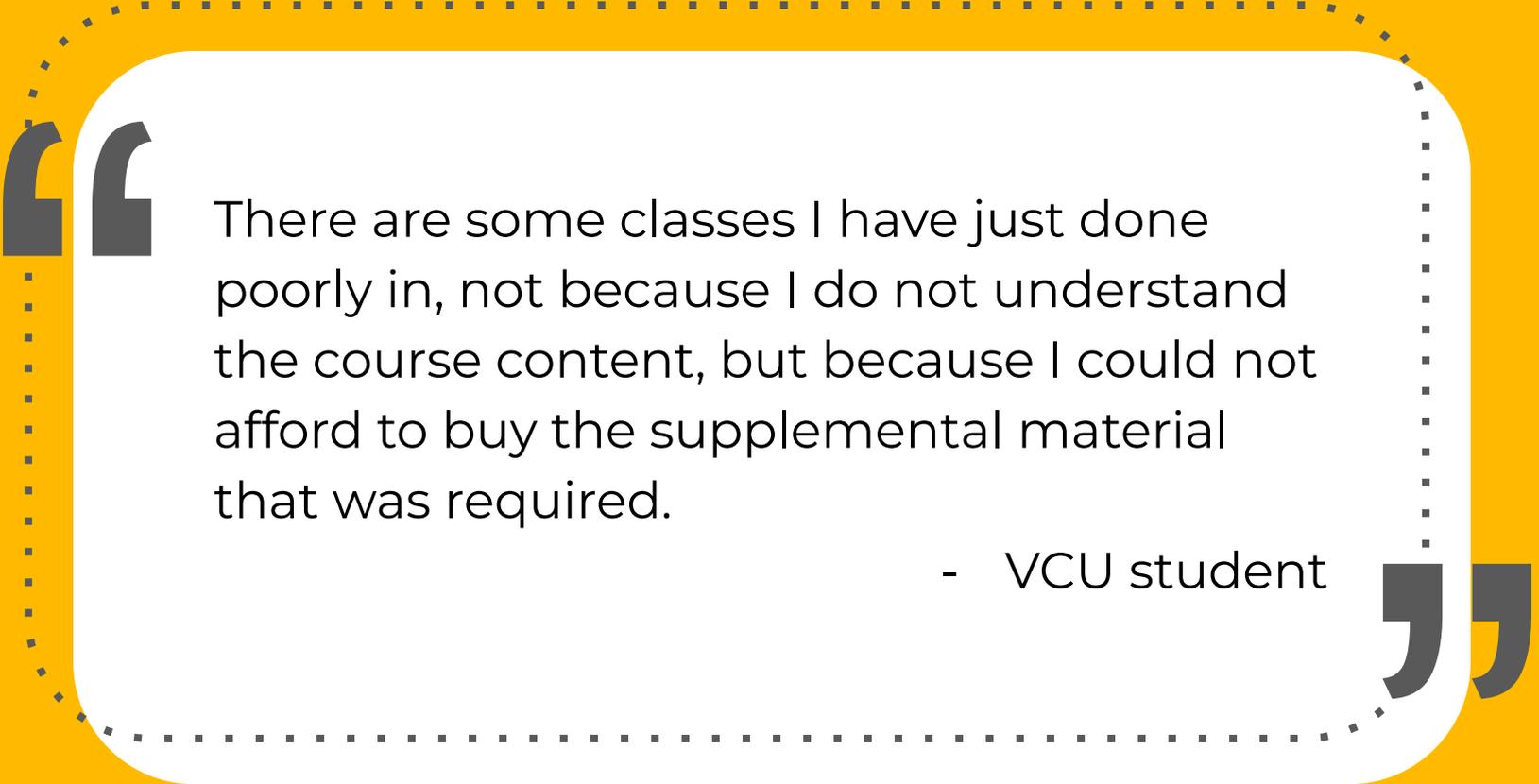
It's absolutely ridiculous how much we pay for textbooks. People hesitate to go further in their education due to the cost.

- VCU student

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“Textbooks are too expensive. I am a student that works full-time in order to pay tuition costs as a full-time student . . . Piling on the cost of textbooks that some use as a substitute for actually teaching is quite frustrating. On occasion it frustrates me to the point of not wanting to attend because if a \$100 textbook can teach me, why am I paying for a \$300+ course?”

- VCU student



There are some classes I have just done poorly in, not because I do not understand the course content, but because I could not afford to buy the supplemental material that was required.

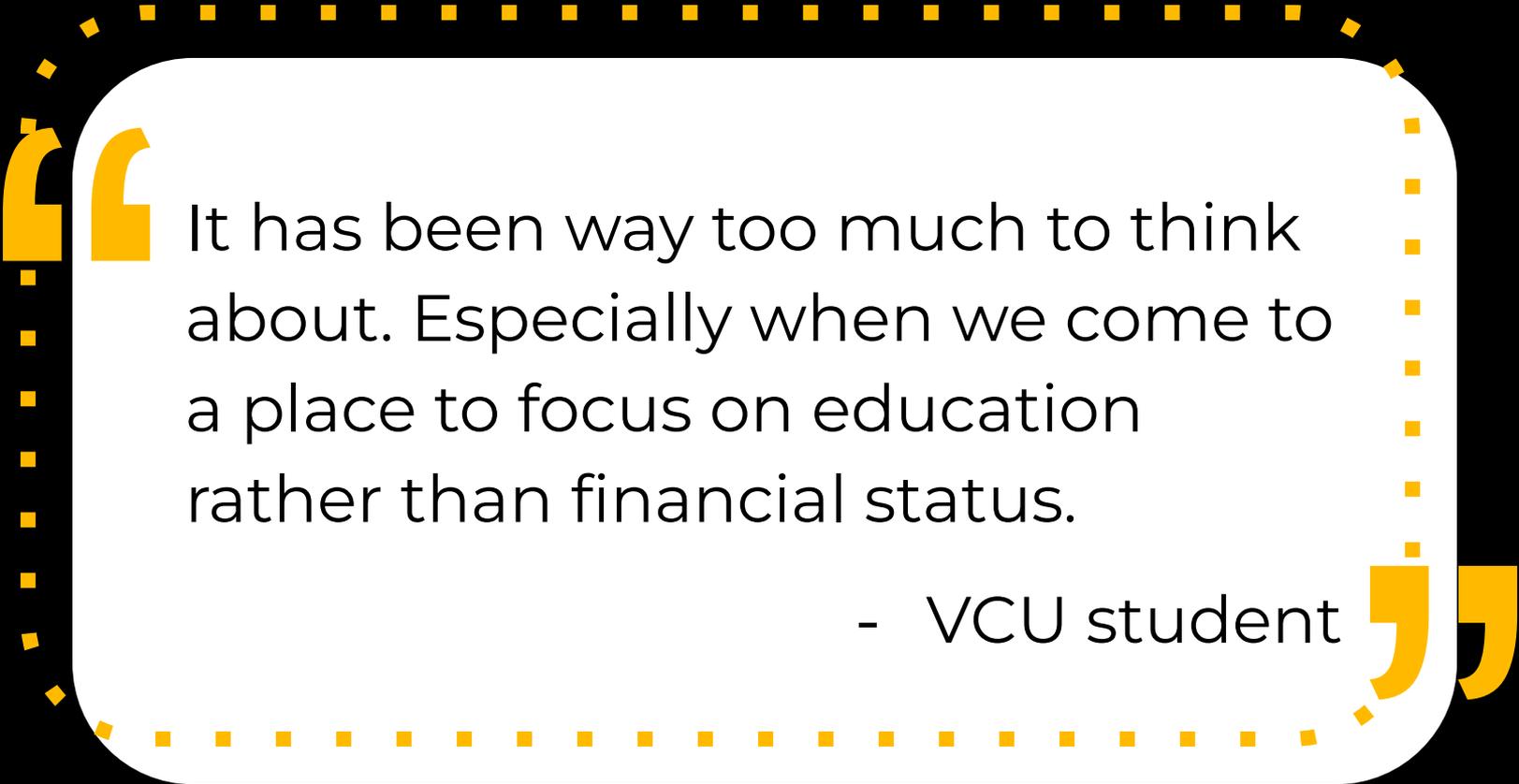
- VCU student

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I know college is expensive already, but I wish it were a bit easier for everyone to get a higher education. Why is knowledge being restricted to those that can pay for it?

- VCU student

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It has been way too much to think about. Especially when we come to a place to focus on education rather than financial status.

- VCU student

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It has made me feel drained financially. It's ridiculous the amount of additional costs that exist besides classes. Please do something.

- VCU student

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“ It kind of makes me resent people that make these books, and feel like they intentionally have these costs to exploit students.

- VCU student ”



I have felt separated from other students and from fully engaging with material due to necessary budgeting for food and rent.

- VCU student



Sometimes, if I feel a textbook is too expensive, I will try to avoid buying it. This isn't my own choice, and it isn't that I can't literally afford it. Mentally, I just don't find it valuable, but I should.

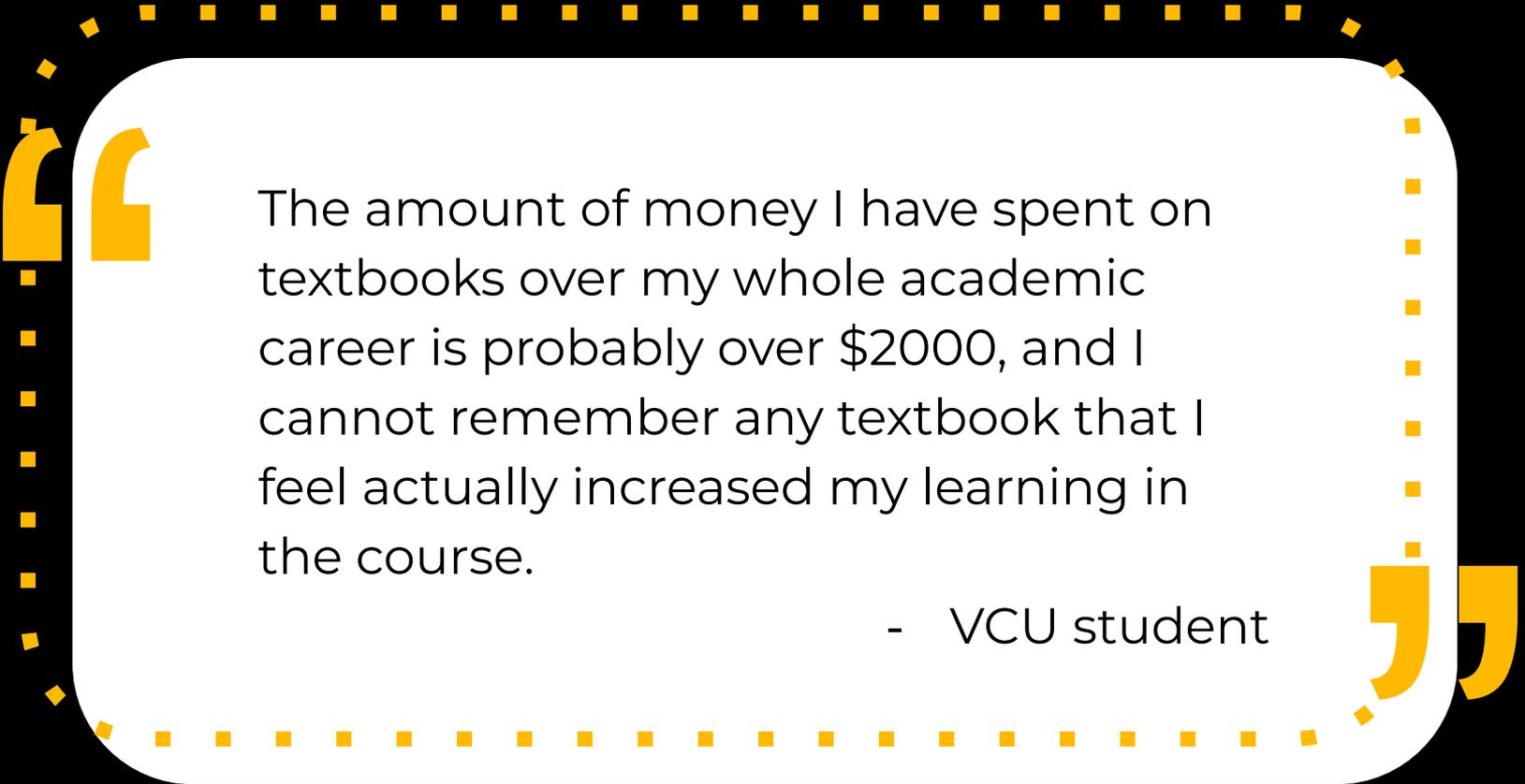
- VCU student

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Spending money on textbooks when I know that's money I'll need for tuition or for food makes it difficult for me to buy the material. However, in classes like my Spanish one, not buying the \$100+ subscription means failing that class. Ultimately it makes me more conscious of when or what I eat, and I feel like it has affected how often I eat as well.

- VCU student

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The amount of money I have spent on textbooks over my whole academic career is probably over \$2000, and I cannot remember any textbook that I feel actually increased my learning in the course.

- VCU student

[Textbook] cost hasn't hindered or benefited my educational process. It's just caused me to break the law in order to afford all my textbooks, which, if I get caught, could definitely hinder my educational process.

- VCU student

I have to constantly stress about finding low cost materials or paying back professors if they have already paid for the books and passed them out. This stress leads to less productive studying in that course because it is such a worry.

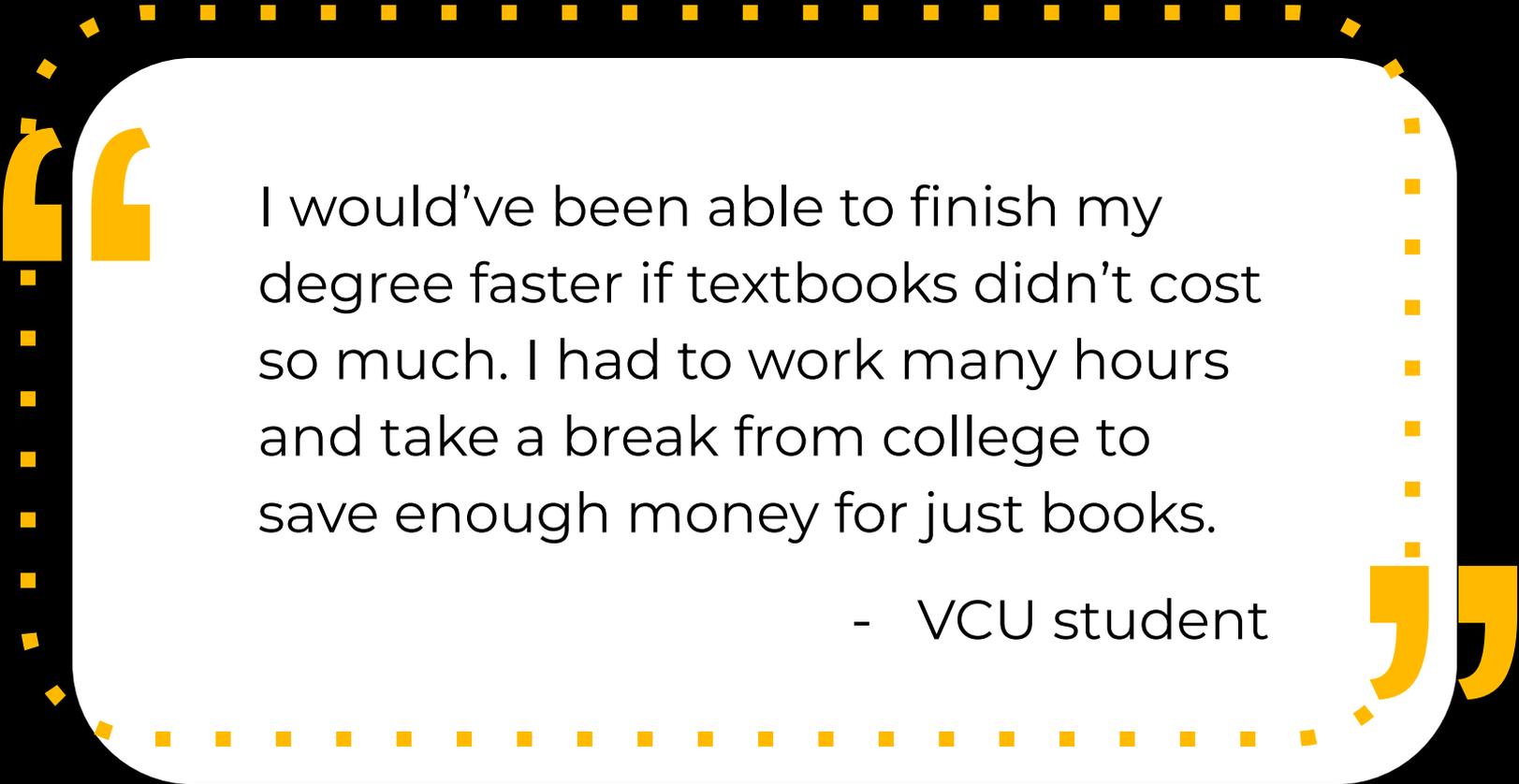
- VCU student

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I have to work more to be able to purchase textbooks and don't get enough time to read those books since I have to work.

- VCU student

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I would've been able to finish my degree faster if textbooks didn't cost so much. I had to work many hours and take a break from college to save enough money for just books.

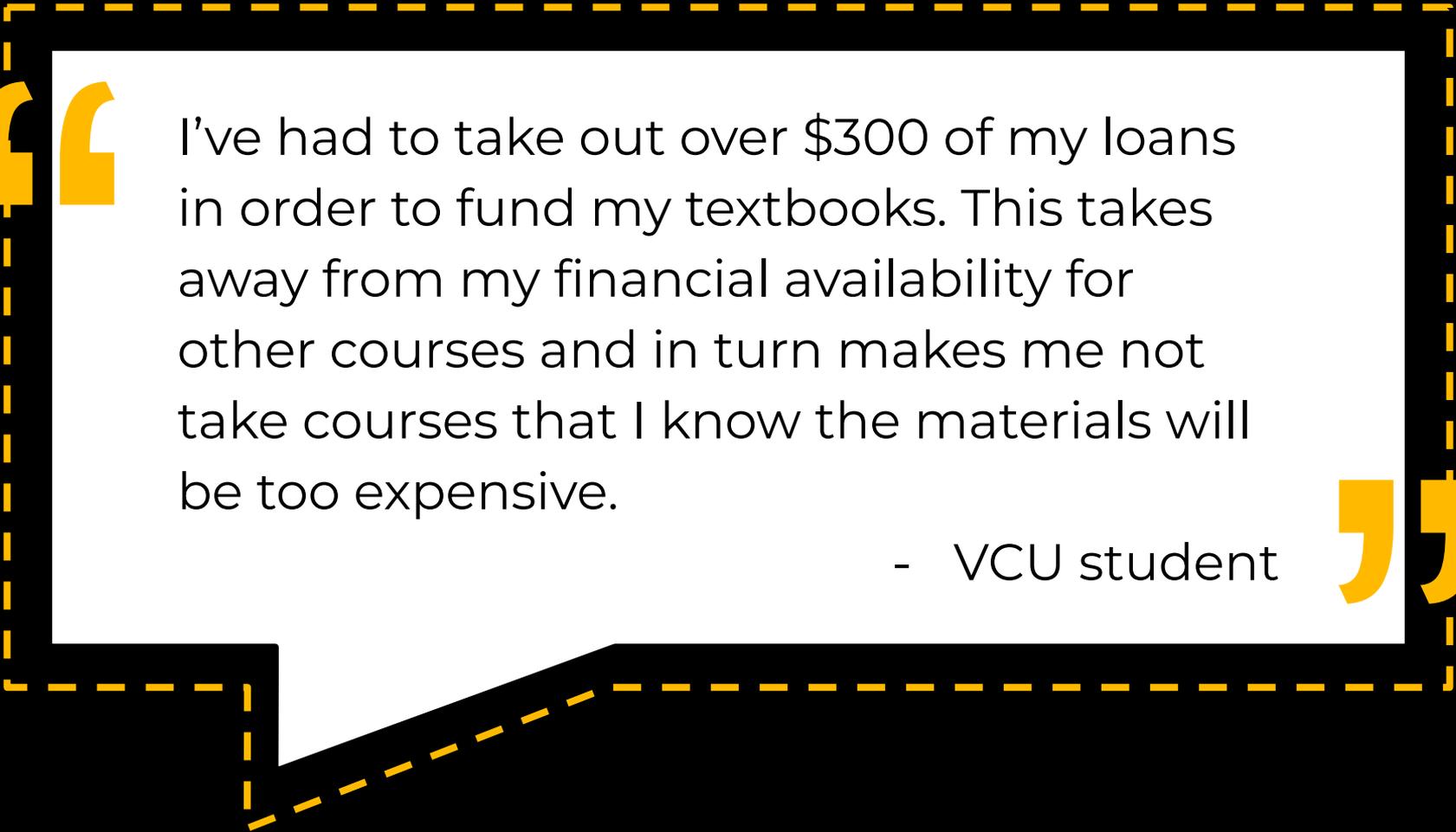
- VCU student

I could not take the courses that I had planned to take because of materials, which made me have to spend a lot of time and effort to find substitutional courses every semester.

- VCU student

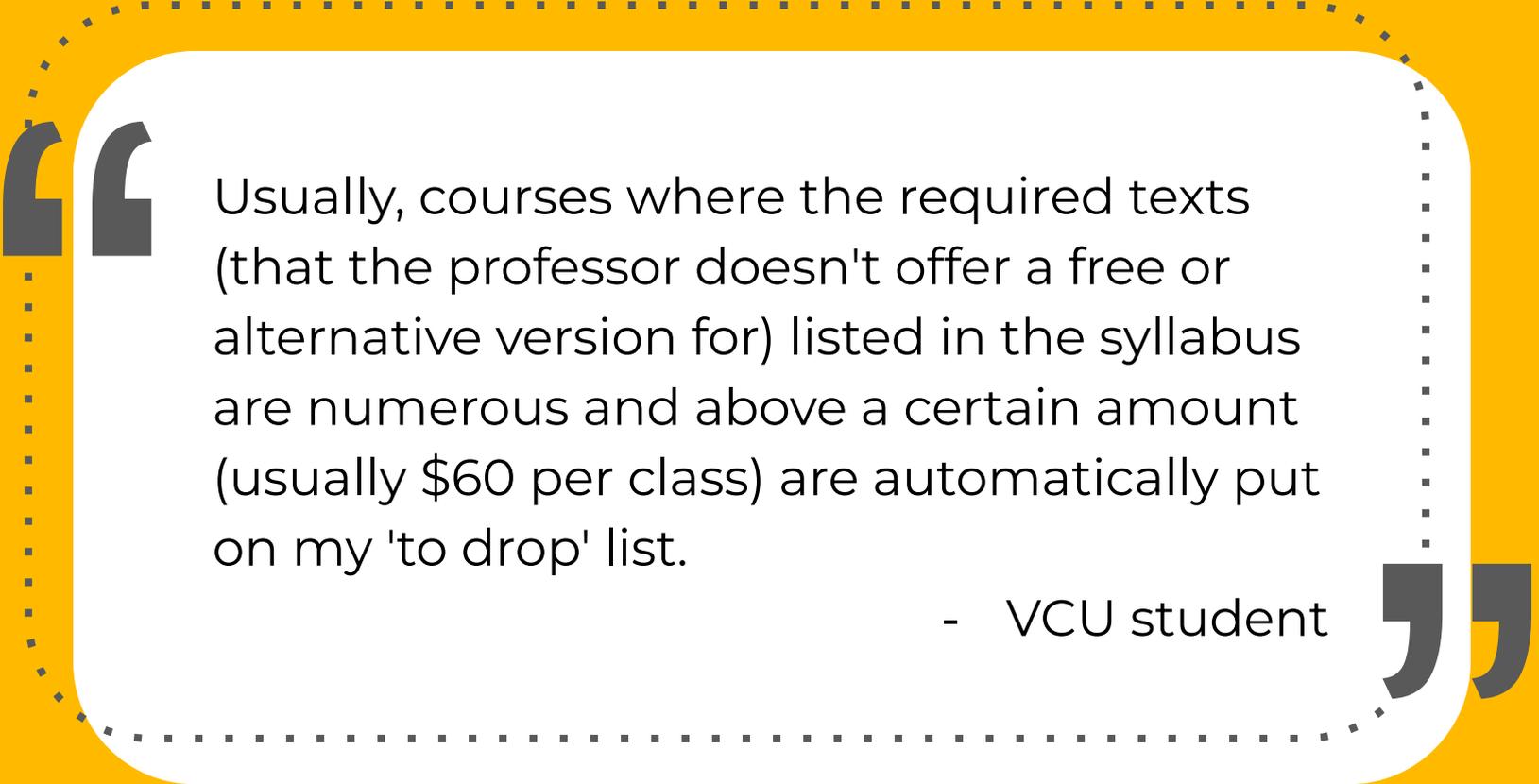
If there's two classes, and one has a free book or no required book where the other is paid, I'll almost always pick the free / not required class.

- VCU student



I've had to take out over \$300 of my loans in order to fund my textbooks. This takes away from my financial availability for other courses and in turn makes me not take courses that I know the materials will be too expensive.

- VCU student



Usually, courses where the required texts (that the professor doesn't offer a free or alternative version for) listed in the syllabus are numerous and above a certain amount (usually \$60 per class) are automatically put on my 'to drop' list.

- VCU student

It causes stress because it is hard to focus on the course when I cannot comfortably purchase the textbook or subscription. I should not have to choose between getting groceries or making a loan payment and being able to have the course materials when I am already paying a lot to go to college.

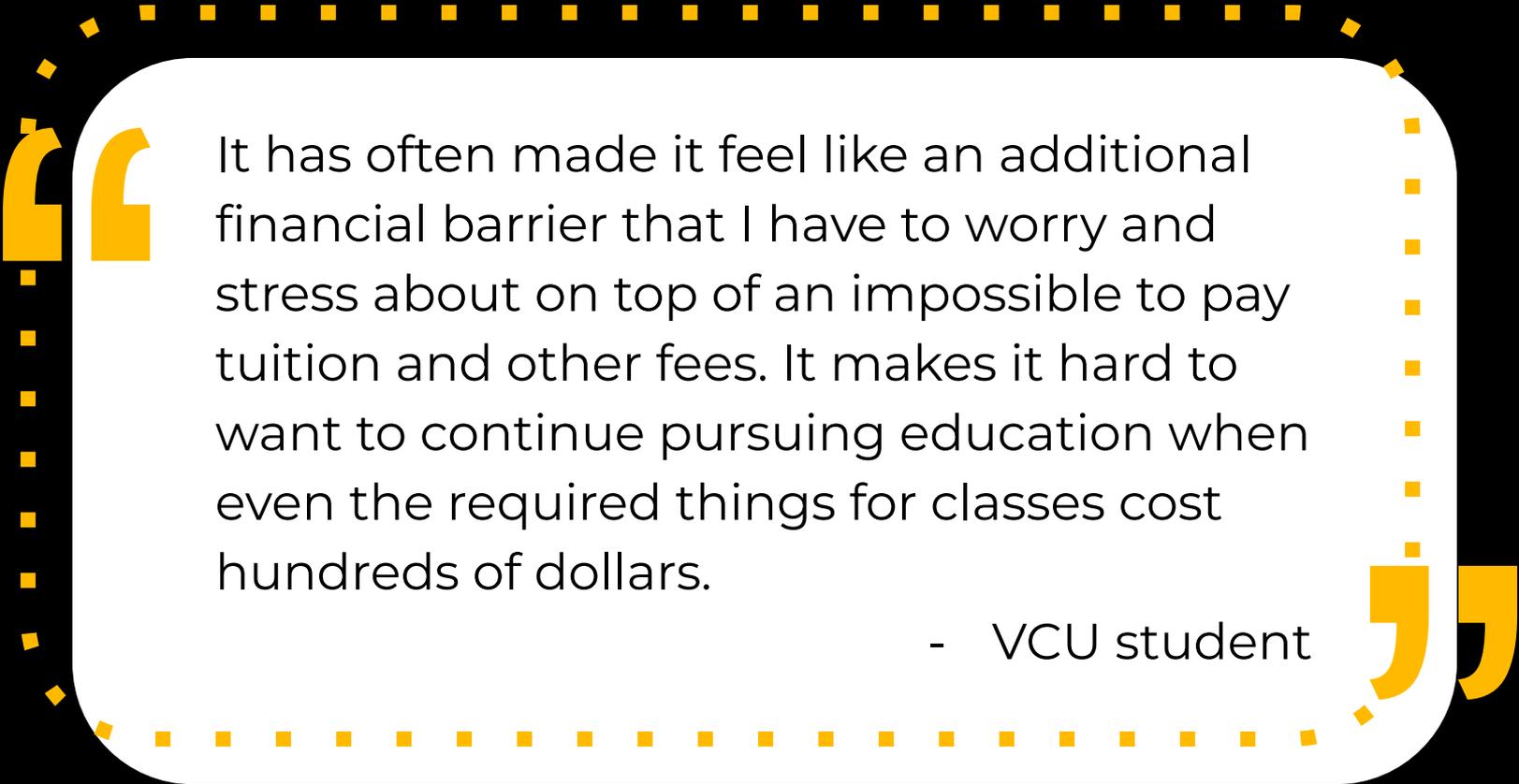
- VCU student



I've had to buy an online textbook this semester due to the cost of a physical textbook. I try to stay clear of electronic textbooks because I am a hands-on/visual learner. Using this online textbook has made me frustrated and taken me longer to get through the material.

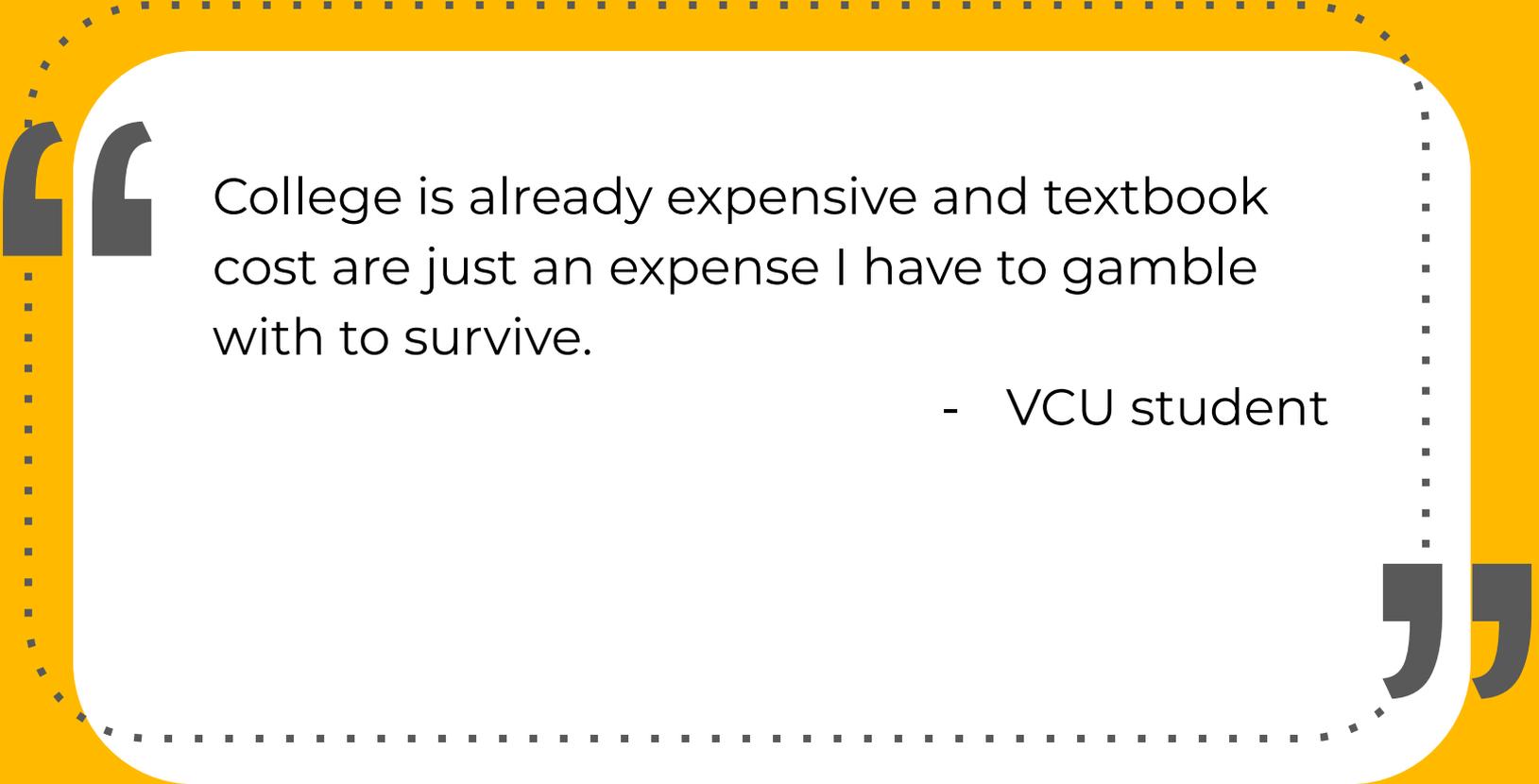
- VCU student





It has often made it feel like an additional financial barrier that I have to worry and stress about on top of an impossible to pay tuition and other fees. It makes it hard to want to continue pursuing education when even the required things for classes cost hundreds of dollars.

- VCU student



College is already expensive and textbook cost are just an expense I have to gamble with to survive.

- VCU student

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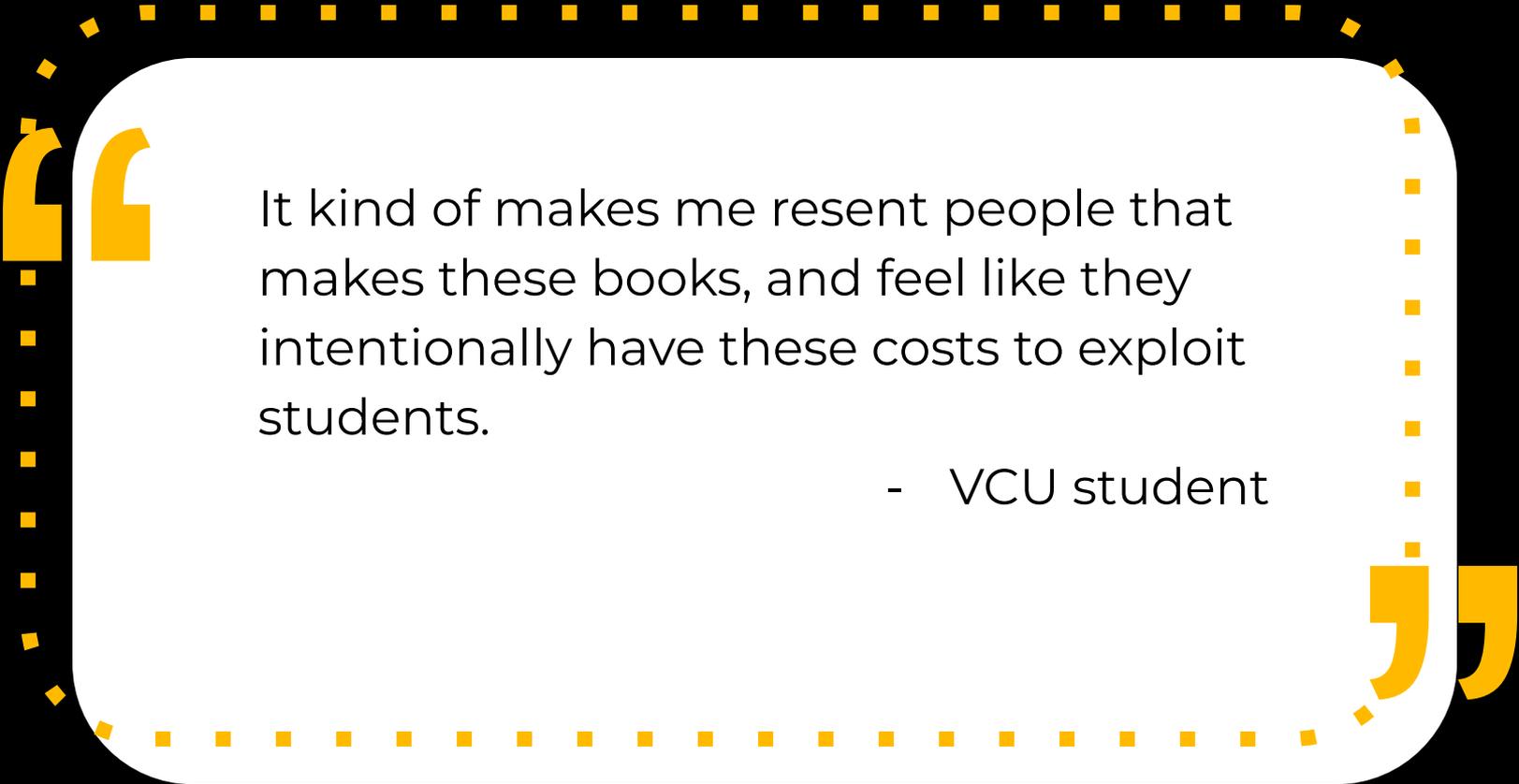
I prefer using a physical copy of the textbook which tends to be double the price of the online text so i get that instead even though i don't learn as well. I always struggled with courses that made you purchase something in order to do the schoolwork on the site, considering were already paying thousands of dollars for the class itself.

- VCU student

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Purchasing the required materials for the course after paying my tuition fees have made me consider not attending college.

- VCU student

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- VCU student

I know college is expensive already but I wish it were a bit easier for everyone to get a higher education. Why is knowledge being restricted to those that can pay for it.

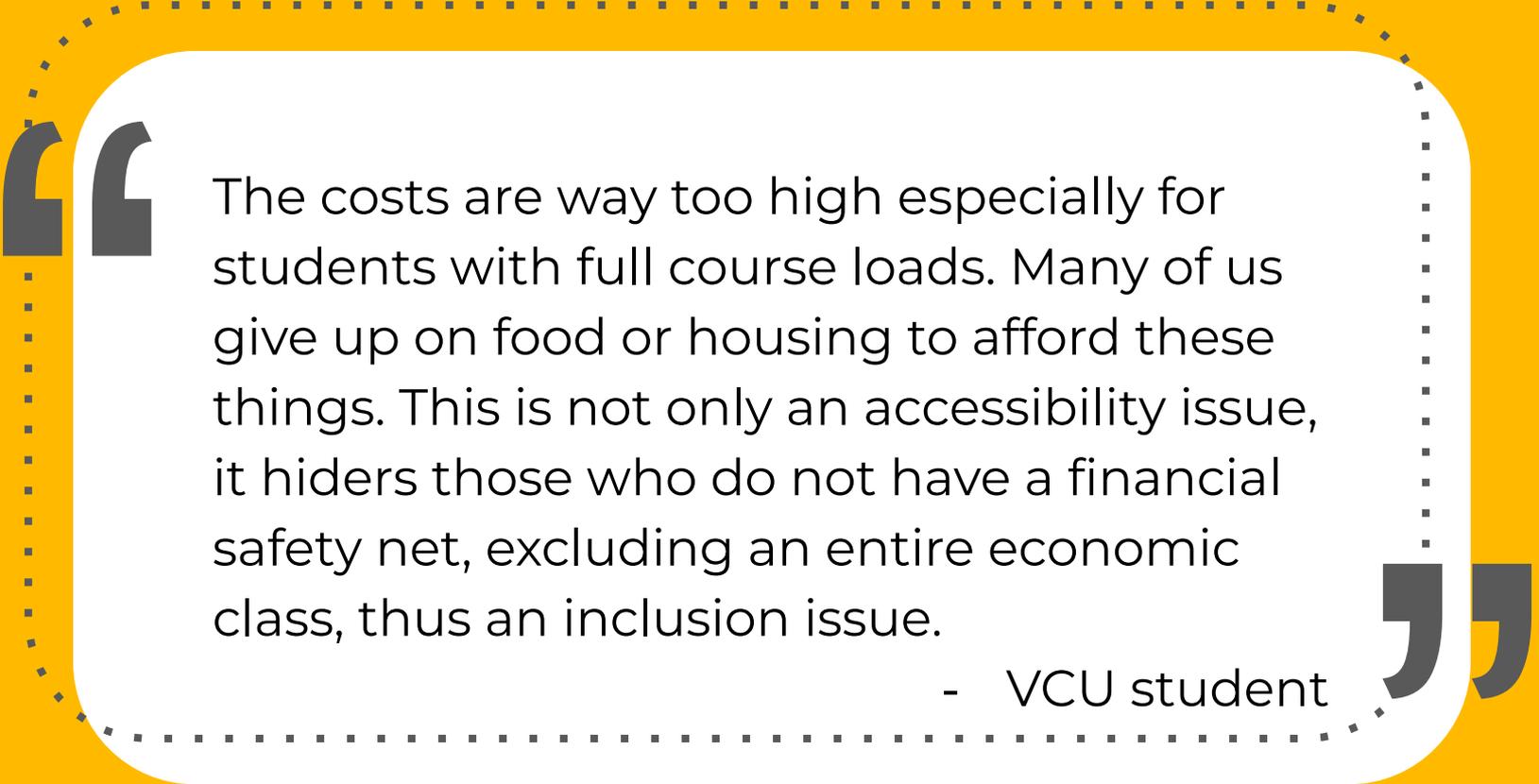
- VCU student

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A lot of these costs are unnecessary add ons that the professors make money off of. Many of them are needed to complete the class work and if you don't buy them you will fail the class. It feels like a barrier and I cant imagine how upsetting it is for people who are barely making ends meet.

- VCU student

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The costs are way too high especially for students with full course loads. Many of us give up on food or housing to afford these things. This is not only an accessibility issue, it hinders those who do not have a financial safety net, excluding an entire economic class, thus an inclusion issue.

- VCU student