# Open Educational Resources for College Departments

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OER can provide many benefits to college departments. Although some believe that these resources are of lower quality, research states otherwise.

## Transcript

One college textbook costs an average of 125 dollars. If we had a large introductory course with 200 students, that would cost the students a total of 25,000 dollars. Considering 11% of students are skipping meals to pay for textbooks, the 25,000 dollars saved could buy 52,083 boxes off-brand mac n’ cheese to feed those same students (Hanson, 2024). After seeing those numbers and also thinking about how financial stressors can influence students to drop out of school (Britt et al., 2017), what would help? In this presentation, I suggest OER.

First of all, what do I mean when I say OER? OER has been defined as materials that are published under an open license that have certain allowances as shown on this slide (UNESCO, n.d.). These allowances are effectively described by contents’ ability to be retained, reused, revised, remixed, and redistributed (Wiley, 2014).

But are there any benefits? Yes! To name only a few, OER can improve cost savings, accessibility, and course content relevancy. It can also allow for easier repurposing and nonprofit involvement (Carson 2020; Ozdemir & Hendricks, 2017). By adopting OER within your university, you could not only save students money, but also benefit open pedagogy. Open pedagogy allows not only the teachers to produce OER, but also the students (Carson 2020; Ozdemir & Hendricks, 2017).

These resources could give students the opportunity for practical application of course content and allow for easier portfolio development. The personalization of OER allows teachers to personalize readings to the content of their class. (Carson 2020; Ozdemir & Hendricks, 2017)

One common misunderstanding is that resources such as commercial textbooks are more effective than OER in college courses. Although this is a valid concern, many studies have shown that OER are actually as effective or more effective than traditional commercial textbooks (Colvard et al., 2018; Grewe & Davis, 2017; Hendricks et al., 2017; Hilton et al., 2016).

Adopting OER within your department can start with spreading awareness, providing faculty with easily accessible resources, and providing adequate incentives to encourage use and production (see Belikov & Bodily, 2016 and Smalley et al., 2024 for OER barriers).

OER provide many benefits not only to students but also to faculty. Resources such as OER repositories and EdTech Books can make it easier to access and publish open content online.

## Google Slides

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