

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Did you know Open Educational Resources (OER) can...

Save Students Money

OER are freely available resources learning materials that can be downloaded, edited, and shared to better serve all students. Students at Montgomery College spend an average of 28% of the cost of tuition on textbooks annually (Montgomery College OIRE, report). The cost of tuition for full time students is \$4902 annually while the average cost of course textbooks and materials is estimated at \$1387. A national study of community college students conducted by Sara Goldrick-Rab showed that the percentages of community college students who are food insecure and/or homeless is much higher than we would expect. Reducing costs of texts and course materials helps balance students' financial burdens¹.



Provide Greater Flexibility and Freedom in Customizing Course Content

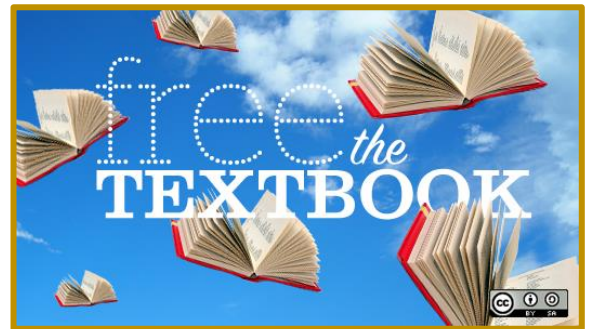
OER give faculty the flexibility and freedom to customize content and instruction to increase relevance and connection to the students in the classroom which has the potential to improve student success. Use of OER has the promise of freeing faculty from the constraints of textbooks. Rather than supplementing and filling in around the margins of an existing paper text, OER give faculty the power to craft instructional materials and instructional practices designed specifically for their courses and their students.

Increase Access To Instructional Materials

Student access to instructional materials is enhanced in a number of ways when they use open educational resources (OER). OER can be made available to students on the first day of classes, thus improving connection to the class. Students don't have to avoid classes where the materials involve high costs, thus improving choice of classes. And students, for most classes, can engage their materials from a variety of electronic devices, keeping them engaged. Greater access to instructional materials means higher satisfaction and better performance for students.

Improve Student Success

The MC Open initiative focuses on faculty redesigning courses using OER to leverage pedagogy that fosters student success while reducing costs and increasing access to course materials. Montgomery College is committed to providing OER course options leading to degree completion (commonly called Z-degrees). The MC Open initiative aims to a) promote student success by encouraging faculty to redesign courses using Open Educational Resources and pedagogy that engage, connect and support student learning; b) make education more affordable by reducing or eliminating required costs for course materials, and c) decrease time to degree completion by giving students the option of applying money towards an additional course rather than to books or other required course materials and by providing clear paths to degree completion.



Increase Student Engagement

Open Educational Resources(OER) increase opportunities for students to more fully engage in content that is up to date and interactive. Students become owners of their own learning by sharing with classmates relevant content that they have discovered. Students at Montgomery College are demonstrating increased engagement in both face-to-face and online courses that have zero textbook costs (Z courses) compared to courses that are using a textbook. Students in Z courses interact within Blackboard more than students in non Z courses. Interactions include any activity within a particular course. While this increased interaction is encouraging, the next focus is to see how this interaction compares with student success.

Visit the MC Open website for more information on the MC Open and OER.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mc-open>