



## Open Educational Resources (OER)

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

### Save Students Money

OER are free, editable learning materials that can be shared to better support all students. At Montgomery College, students spend about 28% of their \$4,902 annual tuition on textbooks—around \$1,387. With many community college students facing food insecurity or homelessness (Goldrick-Rab), reducing textbook costs helps ease financial burdens.

### Provide Greater Flexibility and Freedom in Customizing Course Content

OER give faculty the freedom to customize content and instruction for greater relevance and student connection, supporting improved success. Unlike traditional textbooks, OER allow faculty to design materials and teaching practices tailored to their specific courses and students.

### Increase Access to Instructional Materials

Open Educational Resources (OER) improve access by being available on the first day of class, reducing cost barriers, and offering flexible digital formats. This leads to greater student satisfaction, engagement, and performance.

### Improve Student Success

The MC Open initiative supports faculty in redesigning courses with Open Educational Resources (OER) to enhance student success, reduce costs, and improve access. It promotes a) engaging, student-centered pedagogy; b) affordability through zero-cost course materials; and c) faster degree completion by enabling students to apply savings toward additional courses and follow clear pathways to graduation.

### Increase Student Engagement

Open Educational Resources (OER) promote student engagement by providing up-to-date, interactive content and encouraging peer sharing. At Montgomery College, students in zero-cost textbook (Z) courses show higher engagement in Blackboard than those in traditional courses. The next step is to examine how this increased interaction relates to student success.

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

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/elite/mc-open-faculty.html>