Foothill Community College

OER Adoption Support Program

# Overview

For many community college students, the main financial cost associated with attending college is the price of textbooks and course materials, as the price of textbooks has skyrocketed at more than three times the rate of inflation for decades[[1]](#footnote-1). This can be a substantial barrier for students and Foothill College is committed to eliminating these costs for students. While there are several ways to help reduce the cost of books and course materials, two effective strategies are for the faculty member to replace traditional textbooks with open education resources (OER) or resources available through our college library’s databases. Transitioning to these resources often requires a substantial amount of additional work for the faculty member and Foothill is committed to supporting faculty with compensation for the additional effort it takes to find and adopt such resources.

* **Open educational resources (OER)** are teaching, learning, and research resources that are copyright-free (public domain) or have been released under an open license that permits others to reuse, revise, remix, retain, and redistribute them.
* **Library database resources** include article and video databases that the Foothill Library has purchased for the use of all students and employees.

# Compensation

The Office of Equity and Professional Development and Office of Instruction are partnering to support faculty to transition to OER and/or library database resources[[2]](#footnote-2) applications for faculty compensation as outlined below:

* $500 for the first course transitioned all **required** materials to OER or library database resources
* $300 for the second course transitioned all **required** materials to OER or library database resources
* $200 for the third course transitioned all **required** materials to OER or library database resources

The maximum amount a faculty member can be compensated under this program is $1000.

If you ultimately choose not to select required lower-cost course materials for your course after completing step #1 below, you can still be compensated for reviewing materials at a rate of $100/course for up to three total courses ($300 max).

We’ll continue to review applications as they come in until our funding runs out.

# What do I need to do to get compensated?

As a faculty member, you’ll be compensated when you complete the steps below. To ensure your eligibility, please contact our OER coordinator, Carolyn Holcroft, prior to filling out your paperwork (including the form at the end of this document).

1. **Review course materials** -
* **For adoption of an OER textbook(s)**: Review a minimum of two OER textbooks and submit a review of each textbook (minimum of 100 words each) which may be used publicly by the college to help other faculty make decisions about course materials.
* **For adoption of a combination of resources (articles, videos, etc.):** Review a minimum of three sources and submit a review of each source (minimum of 70 words each), which may be used publicly by the college to help other faculty make decisions about course materials.

*If you reach this point and decide not to adopt any lower-cost course materials at this time, you can still be compensated for reviewing materials at a rate of $100/course for up to three total courses ($300 max).*

1. **Use this checklist from the Office of Online Learning to ensure your new lower cost materials meet** [**accessibility**](https://foothill.edu/onlinelearning/accessibility-info/accessibility-checklist.html) **standards.**
* You can choose to adopt an OER as is, or you can mix/match/remix a combination of OERs
* It’s not a dealbreaker if you discover that they need revision to meet the requirements! If you really like a resource, we can support you to make the necessary changes.
1. **Attach your syllabi showing you’ve transitioned to lower-cost materials**

Provide a copy of the syllabus from the last time you taught the course (no earlier than 2018-19) showing the required higher-cost textbook, and a copy of your newer course syllabus showing the lower-cost OER and/or library resources as the ***required*** course materials.

1. **Attach a list of bibliographic information of the lower-cost materials, including URLs**
2. **Have two of your faculty discipline peers review the materials\***
	* Ask two other department faculty to take a look at the materials you’ve selected for verification that the materials meet the requirements of the active course outline.
	* \*If the OER textbook is already peer-reviewed by a major OER project such as OpenStax, LibreTexts or Open Text Library, this step is not required. If you’re not sure, don’t hesitate to ask (holcroftcarolyn@fhda.edu)

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your name: |  |
| Your CWID: |  |
| Your email address: |  |
| Your department: |  |
| Course being transitioned: |  |
| Prior quarter in which higher-cost course materials were required (no earlier than 2018-19): |  |
| Recent quarter (2021-22) in which lower-cost course materials were required: |  |
| Just for fun: how much money are you saving per student? How much is this per class (assuming your usual seat count)? |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Did you…** | Check |
| Attach copies of your reviews?* Reviews of TWO OER textbooks (100 words each) OR
* Reviews of THREE database sources (70 words each)
 |  |
| Attach a copy of your course syllabus from the last time you taught the course (no earlier than 2018-19) showing the higher-cost course materials that are required? |  |
| Attach a copy of your course syllabus from 2021-22 showing the lower-cost course materials that are required? |  |
| Attach your list of bibliographic information of lower-cost course materials including URLs? |  |
| Use the [accessibility checklist](https://foothill.edu/onlinelearning/accessibility-info/accessibility-checklist.html) to evaluate the new course materials to ensure they meet accessibility requirements, and did you make the necessary changes if they didn’t? |  |
| Confirm your new course materials meet copyright laws (unless they are OER resources, which by nature are copyright free or have an open copyright license)? |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Your signature |  | Date |
| Signature of first faculty peer reviewer |  | Date |
| Signature of second faculty peer reviewer |  | Date |
| OER coordinator signature |  | Date |
| Administrator signature (VPI, AVPI, **or** Dean of Equity/Inclusion) |  | Date |

Please submit your completed form with all signatures to Foothill’s OER coordinator, Carolyn Holcroft

1. https://www.savingadvice.com/articles/2019/03/21/1065941\_college-textbook-prices-increasing-faster-than-tuition-and-inflation.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Transitioning to materials in the public domain (freely available by default) also qualifies. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)