

Converting Local Political Science (POLS) Courses to Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Using Open Educational Resource (OER)


- ASCCC OERI: Political Science *Webinar*
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Introducing Myself

- Current ASCCC OERI Discipline Lead in Political Science
 - 2024/2025 Academic Year
- Authored 3 OER textbooks
 - CI-D: POLS 160 – [Introduction to Political Science Research Methods](#) (Spring 2020; contributing author)
 - CI-D: POLS 130 – [Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics](#) (Spring 2022; lead author)
 - CI-D: GLST 101 – [Introduction to Global Studies](#) (Summer 2024; lead author)
- CA Alliance for Open Education Research grant
 - [OER Faculty Roadmap](#)
- Western Political Science Association
 - Member, [Community College Committee](#) (2023-2025)



A Webinar

- A webinar is a formal discussion of a specific topic and will be archived
 - Goal is to update CA POLS faculty on the current efforts of the POLS Collaboration Cohort
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Converting Local Political Science (POLS) Courses to Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Using Open Educational Resource (OER)

- While all but one of the specified courses in the POLS Transfer Model Curriculum have available OER, a variety of local political science courses that are found in the Associate Degree for Transfer and/or in local degrees do not
- What local courses are commonly found in political science degrees, and what OER are available – or needed – to make these courses ZTC?

OER Efforts So Far: Acceleration Grants

- Acceleration grants are where community colleges submitted to fund additional AD-T programs on their campus
- By December 2023, 84 colleges had received grants of \$22,185,672 to support 306 programs converting to ZTC
 - Provided funding of up to \$200K for each degree developed and implemented
 - Well below the \$88.5 million that had been apportioned
- Included funding for the following resources
 - Textbooks, power point presentations, test banks, Canvas shells, instructor guides, other supplemental resources

No Duplication!!

- State law mandated that any ZTC/OER funded program and/or pathway cannot be duplicated
- Specifically asked in the ZTC Acceleration grant application
 - 6.1 What steps did the college take to determine that your proposed ZTC program pathway will not duplicate other existing ZTC program pathways, and if appropriate, please describe what is unique about your program pathway.
 - 6.2 How will the college prioritize using existing OER content in your ZTC program pathway to avoid creating additional, duplicate OER content?
- How was this to be accomplished?
 - The CO created **Collaboration Cohorts** to avoid duplication

Political Science Collaboration Cohort Meetings

- Each college received an initial \$25k to start the collaboration process
 - Used to research existing OER & prepare for collaboration meetings
- The initial meeting in March 2024 provided cohort members with an overview of the resources in use and the resource needs identified by the cohort members
 - An emphasis on the courses in the pathway that are in the discipline
- Faculty members then separated by core course in the POLS AD-T
 - Held a series of additional meetings where the details for each course were sorted
 - Biggest challenge involved each faculty member navigating their college's union contract
 - Stipend vs. Load

Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Acceleration Grant Collaboration Cohort Political Science Final Report

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POLS Cohort Report Submitted to Chancellor's Office

- ASCCC produced a final report for POLS
 - Officially titled the “Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Acceleration Grant Collaboration Cohort Political Science Final Report”
- Submitted in August 2024
 - POLS was one of the first statewide disciplines to submit
- Some colleges received additional funding to complete their OER work in December 2024

Political Science Collaboration Cohort Final Report

POLS 110: U.S. Government

- Create ancillaries to accompany
 - America: The User's Manual 3e
- Create an ancillary resource:
 - Congress in Action Workbook and Canvas Module

POLS 120: Political Theory

- Create an openly-licensed text (new OER)
 - Create chapter equivalents for historical eras

POLS 130: Comparative Politics

- Update OER
 - Introduction to Comparative Government & Politics (Bozonelos, et. al.)

Political Science Collaboration Cohort Final Report

POLS 140: International Relations

- Create an openly-licensed text (new OER)

POLS 160: Research Methods

- Update OER
 - Introduction to Political Science Research Methods (Franco, et. al.)

POLS 170: Race & Gender

- Create an openly-licensed text (new OER)

Model United Nations

- Create an openly-licensed text (new OER)

The Abandoned Next Steps

- The CCCCO moved forward with Acceleration II, Impact, and Expansion grants for the Fall 2024 semester
 - Acceleration II: Would have continued ZTC Program investment for pathways that are unique to the college or region that have not been awarded in prior phases
 - Impact: Would have supported high impact programs that benefit a great number of students
 - Expansion: Would have provided OER curation support for additional courses that can further enhance the scale and impact of all the ZTC programs that are developed or underway
- They were the 'next steps' in the grant process, ***until***.....very few colleges applied for them
 - This then led to a new final step – the Allocation Grant

Allocation Grant

- In December 2024, the CCCO decided to award each college **\$320,000** in lieu of making additional direct awards
- The ZTC allocation funds can be used as the college seems most appropriate toward ZTC Acceleration II or ZTC Impact program plans that were submitted
 - Or the funds can be used to backfill ZTC requests that were funded at an amount that was less than requested
- Colleges that did not submit ZTC Acceleration II or ZTC Impact Grants will be required to do so once they identify the new program pathways that they will complete
- The CCCO encourages colleges to include their OER Expansion grant courses within their final program pathways

Allocation Grant

- However, only for those courses that are needed and cannot be included in the ZTC Acceleration II or Impact Grant program plans
- The CCCCCO wants the colleges to work with the ASCCC OERI in the coming months to support development of these materials
- Colleges have until May 2nd, 2025, to submit the questionnaire declaring how the \$320K will be spent to advance ZTC objectives and pathways
 - Any time that a college indicates that they will build a new ZTC pathway using the ZTC 2025 Allocation funds, then corresponding NOVA ZTC program plan application must also be submitted – also by May 2nd, 2025
 - For program plans that are more unique in nature (or regionally unique), colleges will submit Acceleration II program plans in NOVA
 - For subject matter areas that were supported by OERI facilitated collaboration cohorts, colleges will submit Impact program plans in NOVA

What Does This Mean for Local POLS Courses?

First need to check for existing OER

- [Open Educational Resources and Political Science \(ASCCC OERI\)](#)
- [OPoliSci](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [OER Commons](#)

If none, then possibly apply through one of the portal for conversion

- Caution! This will need to meet two criteria
 - Your college supports the efforts
 - ASCCC OERI supports the efforts

Available OER for Local POLS Courses

Introduction to California Government and Politics

[Introduction to California Government and Politics \(Reti\) – LibreTexts \(CC BY\)](#)
[State and Local Government and Politics: Prospects for Sustainability](#) Oregon
State University

Introduction to Law and Society

[Intro to Law and the Paralegal Profession](#) OER Commons (Saylor.org, 2012)
[Introduction to Criminal Law](#) OER Commons (Storm, 2012)
[Criminal Law](#) OER Commons (University of Michigan, 2012)
[A casebook, or a companion reader for Fidelity & Constraint](#) (OER Commons, 2019)

Available OER for Local POLS Courses

Introduction to Public Administration

[Public Administration: The Essentials](#) (Renfro, 2023)

Introduction to Public Policy

[Public Policy](#) (Martin, et. al., 2021)

[An Introduction to U.S. Public Policy: Theory & Practice](#) (Knutson, 2023)

Where No
OER is
Available for
Existing Local
POLS
Courses

- Introduction to Native American Politics and Policy
- Grassroots Democracy: Race, Politics, and the American Promise
- Grassroots Democracy: Social Movements since the 1960s
- Grassroots Democracy: Leadership and Power
- Environmental Politics
- Gender and Politics
- Critical Thinking and Writing in Politics

How Do We Move Forward with Local POLS Courses?

1. Submit for their entire POLS program – NOVA ZTC program plan application
 - This could possibly allow for funding of local POLS courses, though there cannot be duplication
2. Submit through the Acceleration Grant II portal
 - Pathways that are unique to the college or region, though a POLS program is unlikely unique at a college
3. Submit through the Impact Grant portal
 - Support high impact programs, though unlikely POLS is a high impact program at a college
4. Submit through the Expansion Grant portal
 - Provide OER curation support for additional courses that can further enhance the scale and impact of all the ZTC programs that are developed or underway
- The ASCCC OERI will most likely have the final say on courses moving forward
 - Have been tasked by the CCCCO to coordinate efforts

Questions & Discussion

Thank you!!